

Hafa Adai!

Car sales are up. **PAGE 2**

JGO to subpoena 7 DPS officials, 3 others. **PAGE 4**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## CNMI positive total at 185

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

» **COVID-19 screening for boaters explained**

The CNMI's total number of COVID-19 cases went up by one to 185 yesterday after one additional person tested positive. The individual was identified through travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing on arrival on July 7. **See POSITIVE on Page 4**

## Ensuring safe restart of tourism through a travel bubble with Korea

### TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

On June 30, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Vice Minister Seong-Kyu Hwang from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport signed a historic agreement to establish a travel bubble between the Marianas and South Korea. **See TOGETHER on Page 4**



## Senators shelve move to amend Article 12

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The full Senate adopted yesterday the report of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs that recommends filing—effectively setting aside—a legislative initiative that proposes to amend Article

12 to remove the land alienation restriction in the CNMI Constitution.

In legislative lingo, “filing” a bill means shelving it or not acting on it further.

All nine senators, including Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who is the author of Senate Legisla- **See SENATORS on Page 4**

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## AT A GLANCE

As of 7:14pm, July 8, 2021

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **65.8%**

Days since last community transmission **107**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	25,660
Fully Vaccinated:	23,516
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,159
Fully Vaccinated:	3,910
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	463

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,408	15	8,423
Recovered	8,188	2	8,190
Active	78	15	93
Deaths	140	0	140

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	184	1	185
Traced via Travel Screening	148	1	149
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

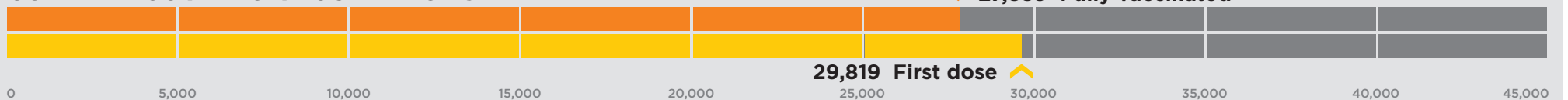
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## MANAGAHA CLEANUP

The Korean Tour Guide Association, together with tour guides on the island, collaborated with the Marianas Visitors Authority and did a beach cleanup on Managaha island on July 2. This is part of the local tour operators' commitment to clean and beautify the CNMI before tourists come in from South Korea under the TRIP program. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



## CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecni.com/vax-dashboard/

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Saipan resident Gee-syu Hahn is commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

**PAGE 7**



### BUSINESS

Spicy Thai Noodle Place opens in Puerto Rico in a new building along Middle Road.

**PAGE 14**



### WORLD

The global death toll from COVID-19 eclipsed 4 million Wednesday amid rush to vaccinate.

**PAGE 17**



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# Local

## Car sales are up

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Car sales in the CNMI is up 21% and the trend is making up for lost sales in 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in March last year.

According to Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero, this is a sign of increasing consumer confidence.

"Being in the car industry for over five years some years ago, the movement of car sales always came down to consumer confidence, ...21% is a good number, especially coming from last year and while still in a pandemic. ... Consumer confidence is a good barometer that people are feeling confident, optimistic about their own financial situation," he said.

"Usually people are not sure if they want to take that risk—calculating job prospects, continued employment, and commitment to pay for the car in a span of five years is a big jump...and with the percentage going up, people are making car purchases," he said.

Federal money and the growing percentage of people getting vaccinated are enabling the community and

businesses to return to pre-pandemic activities, including increased purchasing power.

As of Wednesday, the COVID-19 Task Force announced that 66.4% of people ages 12 years old and older have received their first dose of the vaccine and the number is expected to rise in the coming weeks, with a projection of hitting 70% by September.

"In the U.S. mainland, home sales is the barometer for the outlook of the economy. Everybody looks for a new home or refinancing. In the CNMI, not a lot of people buy homes and that is understandable because we have been through economic challenges over the years, that's why people would rather put their money on a business, investments, or buy a car," Guerrero said.

"Car sales co-relates very well with [taxes] and collection that is good for the economy in general. Car sales going up is a good sign. ...Is it a sign of a healing economy? Yes, and that's how it has always been historically. I used to run the numbers because I was a part of auto dealerships and we would track GDP and other metrics with car sales. ...It is a good trend that economic activities are increasing," Guerrero added.

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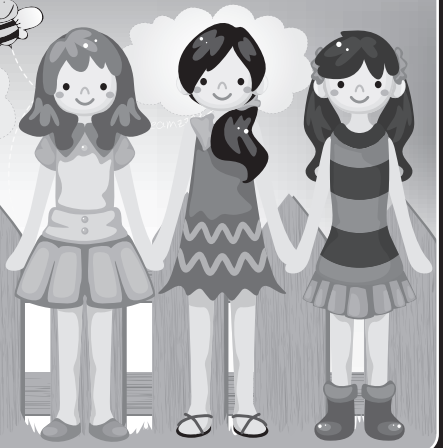
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## NOAA: Neutral weather throughout 2021

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts near-normal tropical cyclone activity for the remainder of 2021 for the CNMI and all U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands.

According to a NOAA news statement yesterday, as of this time, NOAA, which heads the National Weather Service, is anticipating a continuation of El Niño Southern Oscillation neutral conditions through the end of 2021.

Because of this, tropical cyclone activity is expected to remain at near-normal, mean-

ing the CNMI should expect little to no major typhoons for the remaining months of 2021.

Based on this prediction, the CNMI could possibly see maybe two or three tropical storms or one or two typhoons.

However, this prediction could still change because the western North Pacific Ocean climate, and the factors that impact tropical cyclone formation, typically change over a period of months.

"While we don't anticipate a significant change this year, we will provide an update in August to incorporate the lat-

est information into the outlook," NOAA said.

Based on patterns, NOAA says tropical cyclone activity peaks in September to November for many regional locations, including the CNMI. But, because tropical cyclones can and do occur throughout the year, there is no clearly-defined "typhoon season."

Because of this, NOAA strongly urges residents and mariners to maintain preparedness for tropical cyclones, just in case, as tropical cyclone activity tends to fluctuate. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

## Public comments sought on Saipan Neighborhood Watch

The 16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council is soliciting input from residents, families, neighbors, friends, and businesses on the best approach forward with the Saipan Neighborhood Watch Program.

The town hall meetings will be held on Saipan from 5:30pm to 6:30pm to solicit feedback about the installation of CCTV cameras initially at school bus stops (then later at sports and recreational facilities, public parks, etc.).

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

■ July 13, 2021: Kagman Community Center in Kagman 3;

■ July 15, 2021—Carolinian Utt in Garapan;

■ July 20, 2021—Tanapag Social Hall (across Sta. Remedios Church);

■ July 22, 2021—San Vicente Youth Park;

■ July 27, 2021—Koblerville Youth Center; and

■ July 29, 2021—GTC Elementary School.

In addition, residents can attend the meetings via Google Meet by sending their email address at least one day in advance to [spnmunicipalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:spnmunicipalcouncil@gmail.com) for the meeting link.

The goal of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to implement a year-round community-based "neighborhood watch" effort by all to preserve the safety and security of all—children (famagu'on), youth (manhobin), adults and elderly (manamku'), families, households, businesses, non-profit organizations, and public facilities—in villages

throughout Saipan.

"Our goal, too, is to call upon the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature's support to pass a bill (and appropriate annual project funding) to dedicate this project in honor of the lives of Maleina and Faloma Quitugua Luhk, who mysteriously went missing a decade ago on May 25, 2011," said municipal council chair Ana Demapan-Castro. "Everyone's lives and peace of mind matter."

For more details, call the municipal council at 664-2700 or 664-2701. *(PR)*

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## ANNOUNCEMENT



The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning June 01, 2021 through July 09, 2021; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at [fabianu@cnmiwic.org](mailto:fabianu@cnmiwic.org)

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 09, 2021.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at [fabianu@cnmiwic.org](mailto:fabianu@cnmiwic.org).

WIC is an equal opportunity provider. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, Federal Award Identification Number 217NMNM5W1003). The contents above are solely the responsibility of the CHCC and do not necessarily reflect the official views of United States Department of Agriculture.





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# JGO to subpoena 7 DPS officials, 3 others

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Members of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee agreed yesterday to subpoena 10 people, including six Department of Public Safety officials/police officers, to appear and testify in connection with their investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' and the first lady Diann Torres' expenditures and travels.

Reps. Christina E. Sablan, Edwin K. Propst, and Vicente Camacho, all

Democrats, made a motion to subpoena the 10 witnesses to appear before the committee and testify.

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) also made a motion to issue a subpoena for the Department of Finance and DPS Boating Safety to provide some documents.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said in an interview that all the motions were adopted.

Babauta said they clarified that the hearing is dependent on the availability of the House conference room and the schedule of the JGO members.

Babauta said it was Sablan who moved to command the appearance of DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles director Juana Deleon Guerrero, police officer Adrian Mendiola of Boating Safety, and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

It was Camacho who moved to command the appearance of Erin Camacho of the Women, Infants, and Children Program, former Finance secretary Larrisa Larson, and Joey Cruz, who is the personal driver/security detail of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Propst then moved to subpoena

na police officers Simon Manacop, Jose Saures, Daniel Joab, and Alex Sakisat.

Babauta said Manglona made a motion to issue a subpoena to Boating Safety and the Department of Finance for travel and other related matters specific to police officers Flora Aguon and Jhaneeka Atalig,

who were former personal security details with first lady Diann Torres.

She said Manglona also made a motion to issue a subpoena to Boating Safety to provide documents related to police officers Adrian Mendiola and Henry Kaipat.

Babauta said the JGO hearing will continue on Thursday at 10am.

## TOGETHER

From Page 1

the first of its kind out of Korea.

South Korea has expressed confidence in partnering with the Marianas to provide safer travel options for residents of both countries, citing the Marianas' "very low" risk level for COVID-19 and high vaccination rate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified both the Marianas and South Korea as low-risk countries. Our islands reached Level Green (safest) on the five-color Community Vulnerability risk scale on June 18. As of July 5, the rate of fully inoculated residents in the Commonwealth reached 65%, while South Korea's vaccination rate surged over the past two months reaching 30% last week. With a population of 52 million, Korea's vaccination rate is one of the highest in Asia.

The travel bubble is a first for both countries, and while the deal was sealed after only a few minutes, the establishment of the program took long and thorough discussions between our governments and among key stakeholders in the tourism industry. The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, through its Tourism Resumption Blueprint proposal, and the Marianas Visitors Authority, facilitated the series of meetings among stakeholders that established the details for the travel

corridor. Commonwealth health officials also played an important role in outlining the safety protocols for the travel bubble.

South Korea hopes to create a demand and bring back confidence in travel through its first travel agreement this year. Only vaccinated travelers from South Korea are eligible for the travel bubble program, and Korean nationals returning from a trip to the Marianas would be exempted from the 14-day quarantine requirement.

Let's show our guests our warm *Hafa Adai & Tirow* spirit and continue to transform and prepare our destination sites and villages facilities. To support tourism's reopening, the GCEA's PPP partners will be hosting special cleanups throughout all the islands on July 10 and 17. We welcome all residents to volunteer with a group or host cleanups in their villages, along the streets, or around their businesses. We also thank those who cleaned the benches and tables along Beach Road and other sites after the Liberation Day weekend celebration. This shows the pride you have in our home.

As we pave the way toward the revival of the tourism industry, let's keep each other safe while ensuring a memorable time for our visitors. We applaud our leaders for making this a reality for us. Now we need to make the travel bubble work so we can help our people get back to work and restart our economy.

## Deleon Guerrero confirmed as Commerce chief and Seman as CEDA board director

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the appointment of Edward M. Deleon Guerrero as Department of Commerce secretary, as well as the appointment of Isidro K. Seman as a member of the board of directors of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

All nine senators voted "yes" to adopt the report of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments & Government Investigations that recommended the confirmation of the executive appointments of Deleon Guerrero and Seman.

EAGI Committee chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) said the committee examined all pertinent documents related to the executive appointment of Deleon Guerrero's and Seman's overall credentials to serve as Commerce secretary and CEDA director representing Saipan, respectively.

Last month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law the bill that renames the Commonwealth Development Authority into the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and tasked it with the duty of promoting the CNMI as an investment destination in a bid to diversify its economy.

Cruz said that, based on the overall assessment of Deleon Guerrero's and

Seman's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues to consider, the committee is convinced that both have the qualifications and leadership skills necessary for their positions.

Deleon Guerrero said in a later interview that he looks forward to working with his staff and all the other departments and business community in the CNMI to ensure that they move forward in improving the economy and providing the best services to the business community and the community as a whole.

Deleon Guerrero thanked the Senate for having the confidence to confirm him.

Deleon Guerrero was the corporate registry director when Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appointed him to serve as Commerce secretary.

Last March 28, Mark O. Rabaulman resigned as Commerce secretary. He is now director of Economic Development within the Department of Commerce.

Seman said in an interview that his priority is to stimulate the economy because that's basically what he's appointed for. "I'll do my best to serve the people," said Seman.

With respect to Deleon Guerrero's appointment, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said although she is not a member of EAGI Committee, she read the committee's report that consolidated what transpired during the public hearings on all the senatorial districts.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### 4.5-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 11:55am on July 8, 2021 a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.586°N 143.229°E in the Marianas region. Currently, there is no tsunami warning, or advisory that was issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

#### Auditions for Friends of the

Fishing Tournament this weekend. CHCC has assured that COVID-19 screening and safety protocols have been in full effect since this Wednesday for these arriving fishing aficionados.

As learned through CHCC spokesperson Guillermo Lifofoi, all boaters and their crew have to undergo various screening processes before docking and entering Saipan.

Before setting sail for Saipan, each crewmember has to submit a health declaration form. Once a boat and its crew arrives at the Smiling Cove Marina's transient dock, members of the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team will escort crew members to a tent where Saipan's agencies responsible for COVID-19 response will conduct various screenings before giving boaters approval to dock elsewhere at Smiling Cove and enter Saipan.

The first step for a crewmember will be to have their health declaration form information verified with

#### Arts play

The Friends of the Arts will be holding auditions for 3 *One Act Plays* by the noted playwright David Ives on Saturday, July 10, from 1pm to 3pm, and Sunday, July 11, from 3pm to 5pm, in Room 102D at Marianas High School.

The rehearsals will be spread over the month of July, with two performance nights scheduled in August. The plays require performers ages 14 and up, and many roles are not gender specific. (PR)

personnel from the COVID-19 Task Force. Once verified, the crewmember will proceed to a table manned by CHCC CDI personnel, who will verify a person's vaccination records and establish contact tracing through gathering information such as their phone numbers, where the person will stay while on Saipan, who they will stay with, and other relevant information.

The final half of the process will involve going to a table where Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services personnel will administer COVID-19 swab tests, and after being swabbed a crew member will proceed to an observation area to wait for 15-20 minutes for test results.

Throughout the process, as a boat's crew is at the screening tent, personnel from the Division of Customs will be at the dock inspecting boats for any invasive species that might have made their way onto a vessel, such as brown tree snakes, and will also inspect for any kind of illegal paraphernalia.

## SENATORS

From Page 1

Initiative 22-01, voted "yes" to adopt the committee's report.

The initiative had proposed to amend Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution to remove the restriction on the alienation of land in the CNMI and thereby allow Northern Marianas descent landowners to fully exercise their real property rights. The initiative also sought to reduce the NMD percentage of ownership interest in a Northern Marianas Descent corporation.

Committee chair Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) related that, as soon as the legislative initiative was referred to his committee, they held public hearings on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian to give people the opportunity to express their testimonies and comments.

Quitugua said that, based on the testimonies presented during the public hearings and those submitted in writing, an overwhelming majority of the testimonies on Tinian and Saipan opposed the initiative.

Also, Quitugua said, the author of the initiative legislative himself, Hofschneider, requested the committee to file the measure during the Senate session last May 18.

"So with the aforesaid reasons, the committee made the decision to file Senate Legislative Initiative 22-01," Quitugua said.

Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) said he is very proud, though, of Hofschneider for giving time to introduce this initiative legislative. "I must applaud you for bringing this matter before the people and your committee to ensure that we wake them up about the situation of Article 12," Hocog told Hofschneider.

Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution restricts ownership of private land to persons of NMD. It is a provision unique to the CNMI.

Hocog said there were some proponents in the past who wanted to amend Article 12 to provide more opportunities to business entrepreneurs, but that did not happen. After 20 some years of letting the topic lay dormant, Hocog said it was good of Hofschneider to put up a sort of a wake-up call to check whether or not people would like to change, or continue to maintain that rule.

He said there are people out there that supported the initiative, but the REDP Committee came up with a conclusion based on public opinion, as well as Hofschneider's blessing. "At this time, I think that we have seen their concern," Hocog said.

## POSITIVE

From Page 1

According to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. press statement yesterday, the affected person has since been moved to a designated isolation area for close monitoring, and the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the individual's most immediate contacts, including passengers on the same flight.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination" dashboard, Guam is at COVID-19 Level 2: Moderate. There are four levels in the CDC's scale, with "Level 1" being "Low" and "Level 4" being "Very High." The CNMI is at "Level 1."

This comes as fishermen from Guam continue to arrive at the Smiling Cove Marina in preparation for the 37th Annual Saipan International

# Court dismisses case against American Memorial Park

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has dismissed the case filed by a woman against the Pacific-West Region of the National Park Service, which manages the American Memorial Park, for an injury she sustained after tripping at the park.

Pacific-West Region of the National Park Service has reached a settlement with Alyssa Jade Nunez who sued the park for negligence.

The park, represented by assistant U.S. Attorney Mikel W. Schwab, told the court that they have settled the entire lawsuit and that the parties want the court to dismiss the case with prejudice. This means the court makes a final decision on a case and it can no longer be filed again.

After reviewing the settlement agreement, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Nunez's complaint.

According to the suit, Nunez said she suffered injuries when she tripped over one of the wires in the grassy area of the park in Garapan where she and her family had just at-

tended the Taste of Marianas in May 2018. Nunez said that NPS PWR Division employees should have known that those wires presented a tripping hazard to park visitors, especially when it was dark because the grassy area was poorly lit in the evening. There were no signs to warn people of the tripping hazard created by the wires, or ward off the entire surrounding area to prevent people from walking across where the wires were, the lawsuit stated.

Nunez said she tripped over one of the wires and fell for-

ward. She said the fall fractured her elbow on her right arm and sought damages amounting to \$500,000.

NPS admitted that they did not remove the cables between the low cement posts located on the grass between Micro Beach Road and the stage for the event, admitted that it did not put up any warning signs in the vicinity of those cables, nor warded off the entire area adjacent to those cables, installed any temporary lighting in the vicinity of those cables, or placed an employee in the vicinity of those cables.

## Eco Camp starts Monday

Eco Camp will run at the Marianas Trekking Adventure Center in Marpi beginning Monday, July 12.

"This will be our 22nd year offering activities to our local community," said Marianas Trekking manager Jojo Valencia. "We are going to go on some great hikes and field trips along with our traditional activities. It should be a really fun experience for kids."

Camp activities include hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, go

karting, field trips, off-roading, and more.

Eco Camp is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 14.

Reservations can be made in person at the Marianas Trekking Adventure Center or by calling 323-8735, or at [marianastrekking.com](http://marianastrekking.com).

Marianas Trekking is encouraging people to sign up at [marianastrekking.com](http://marianastrekking.com). Camp participation is limited. Camp is priced at \$100 per week and includes lunch. (PR)



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# 15 certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Fifteen individuals from various agencies on Tinian were certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid through a program hosted by the Community Guidance Center of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

According to a CHCC press statement, the agencies represented at the June 29 training included the Tinian Health Center, Division of Youth Services, CHCC Popula-

tion Health Programs, Tinian Youth Center, Tinian Public Library, Tinian Junior Senior High School, Public School System Behavioral Health Team, Pacific Island Health Officers Association, and CGC Tinian.

The Youth Mental Health First Aid, or YMHFA, is a program created by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing that is intended to show adults who work with adolescents the best methods of helping those from 12 to 18 years old with mental illnesses and is-

sues with addiction.

Through the program, the participants learned of the common mental health challenges that adolescents experience, a five-step action plan to help youth in mental health crisis scenarios, and the importance of practicing self-care as a youth mental health first-aid. The participants were also exposed to training related to anxiety, depression, substance abuse, eating disorders, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The five-step action plan

for youth in a mental health crisis is: (1) Assess for risk of suicide or harm, (2) Listen nonjudgmentally, (3) Give reassurance and information, (4)

Encourage appropriate professional help, and (5) Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

The CHCC statement said

the CGC has so far certified 1,094 individuals in the CNMI, Palau, and Guam in YMHFA, the adult mental health first aid course, or both.



Fifteen individuals from various agencies were certified Youth Mental Health First Aid, an evidence-based program aimed at identifying, understanding, and responding to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**Office of the Public Auditor**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
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**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-113**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 22, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.  
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

**MA. ELENA DE GUZMAN BORLONGAN**  
P.O. Box 501937, Saipan MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 285-3066 (Mobile)

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE: ) Civil Action  
ESTATE OF ) No. 21-0186  
ERWIN VALENTINO )  
BORLONGAN ) **NOTICE OF  
HEARING**

**TO: Ma. Elena De Guzman Borlongan, Parent of Angela Nicole De Guzman Borlongan, Alyssa De Guzman Borlongan and Andrew De Guzman Borlongan, all minor children.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., in the Superior Court of CNMI, before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

DATED this 17th day of June, 2021.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

## Man in meth case released on \$1K bail

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A man who was arrested for allegedly trafficking and possessing methamphetamine or "ice" has been released from the Department of Corrections after posting \$1,000 of his initial \$100,000 bail.

Dean Troy Manahane, 39, who is facing one count of trafficking of a controlled substance and one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance, was released to his mother and sister after the Superior Court allowed him to post 1% of his bail or \$1,000.

Associate Judge Joseph Camacho was initially concerned about releasing Manahane to his proposed primary third-party custodian, his mother, because of her medical con-

dition. However, his sister was proposed as his secondary third-party custodian to ensure that he abides with the court conditions.

According to court documents, Manahane was arrested following two sting operations the Drug Enforcement Task Force did back in 2019.

The first buy-walk operation happened on Dec. 16, 2019. DETF acquired a warrant to conduct a buy-walk operation from Camacho to investigate the reported drug activity Manahane was involved in.

On Dec. 16, 2019, task force officers enlisted a cooperating source to buy \$100 worth of methamphetamine from Manahane.

After listening in on the conversation between Manahane and the cooperating source, task force officers followed the source to Joeten

Susupe where the exchange would take place. At the scene, task force officers observed a beige pickup truck that was later confirmed to be driven by Manahane. Two baggies that contained a crystal-like substance that later tested positive for methamphetamine were acquired from that operation.

The second buy-walk operation was done on Dec. 19, 2019. Task force officers enlisted another cooperating source to purchase \$200 worth of methamphetamine from Manahane, who allegedly met with the source at his home in Koblerville for the exchange. Task force officers later met with the source at another neutral location where they obtained a baggie that contained a crystal-like substance. The substance later tested positive for methamphetamine.


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**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB21-GOV-117**

**RENOVATION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING NO. 1324 SAIPAN MP**

**SUBMISSION DATE: 11:00 AM CHST, JULY 21, 2021**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Renovation of Government Building No. 1324* in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available on **July 2, 2021** at the Office of Planning & Development, Suite No. 308 CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site, Building 1324 in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST July 12, 2021**. Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to **Ms. Kayleena Seman** at [kayleena.seman@opd.gov.mp](mailto:kayleena.seman@opd.gov.mp) no later than **4:30 PM ChST July 16, 2021**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **11:00 AM July 21, 2021**.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor, CNMI

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director**  
CNMI Procurement & Supply



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-028**

**SUBMISSION DATE: April 11, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

**"Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold) and Kopa Di Oru Intersection Improvements and Intersection of Traffic Signal System"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **July 02, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 21, 2021**, 9:00 a.m., local time at the **DPW Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 28, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

# Saipan resident is now second lieutenant in US Army



From left, special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider; Geesyu Hahn’s father, Ryu Shic Hahn; Geesyu Hahn; Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang; Geesyu Hahn’s mother, Mi Hwa Kim; and other members of Hahn’s family share a group photo after Hahn’s commissioning ceremony at the Saipan Mayor’s Office conference room yesterday.

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A commissioning ceremony was held at the Saipan Mayor’s Office yesterday Thursday morning for a Saipan resident who graduated from the University of Portland with a Bachelor of Science in Supply and Logistics and was involved with the university’s Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Formerly a cadet, he is now a U.S. Army officer with the rank of second lieutenant branched with the Chemical Corps in the Army National Guard.

Geesyu Hahn was surrounded by friends and family during his commissioning ceremony, an event that saw Hahn taking his oath of office with the help of University of Portland ROTC’s Maj. Kristy Harrison through video conference, the pinning of gold bars signifying Hahn’s new rank performed by his parents, and other proceedings.

Giving brief remarks after his commissioning, Hahn looked back at his life on Saipan and his experiences abroad, and looks forward to what the future has in store.

“Thank you everyone for coming to this ceremony today. All my life, all I’ve ever known was Saipan, so it was challenging for me to go to a different place to live and learn. It goes without saying that all that I’ve learned and experienced in Portland are invaluable to me. However, the past is not why we are here today. No, today we are here to celebrate what is to come. And like the past, there may be some bumps and turns, but with your continued support and with readiness and discipline, I will fearlessly move forward,” said Hahn.

In an interview after the ceremony, Hahn said that everything in the future will work out “as long as I get support from my friends and family and continue to main-

tain that military bearing.” He said he will soon be going back to Portland to start his job as a second lieutenant in the Oregon National Guard as a chemical officer, and will go through officer training sometime later.

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## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority would like to notify the General Public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-1. A Copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, 2nd Floor Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe or via email to: Special Assistant for Public Transportation, [alfreda.camacho.maratita@gov.mp](mailto:alfreda.camacho.maratita@gov.mp) no later than **August 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Should you have any questions regarding COTA (TTIP), you may contact the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at 664-2682.  
The Following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-1

**CNMI Office of the Governor, The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan:  
PROJECT FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA)**

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) FY2020-2023 Amendment #1						
District	Project Description	Type of Work	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
SAIPAN	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	CM	\$590,000.00			
		Construction	\$3,500,000.00			
SAIPAN	A/E Design for the Fixed Route Bus Stops	PE Design			\$300,000.00	
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of Thirty-Seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction			\$800,000.00	
		CM			\$209,500.00	
SAIPAN	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Buses for the Fixed Route	Rolling Stock		\$2,102,967.00		
SAIPAN	Construction of Bus Transfer Stations at the Northern Marianas College, Paseo De Marianas and Kagman	PE Design			\$70,000.00	
		Construction				\$700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply of Maintenance Equipment & Tools for COTA Maintenance Facility	CM				\$130,000.00
		Equipment			\$400,000.00	
SAIPAN	Construction of the COTA Bus Covered Parking Structure	PE Design			\$351,000.00	
		Construction				\$2,700,000.00
		CM				\$300,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters on Public Transit Fixed Route	PE Design			\$350,000.00	
		Construction				\$3,500,000.00
		CM				\$650,000.00
Rota	Design & Construction of the Rota Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design			\$40,000.00	
		Construction				\$400,000.00
		CM				\$80,000.00
Tinian	Design & Construction of the Tinian Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design			\$40,000.00	
		Construction				\$400,000.00
		CM				\$80,000.00
Rota & Tinian	Procurement of Four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Vans for Rota and Tinian Demand Responsive Services	Rolling Stock			\$480,000.00	
Saipan	CNMI COVID-19 Research Demonstration	Research			\$300,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION			\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

Funding Source	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
MP-04-0002-00 (Veterans Transportation One-Call/One-Click)	\$710,223.00			
MP-2019-001-00 (49 U.S.C. Section 5339- Bus and Bus Facilities)	\$3,224,567.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$1,009,500.00	
MP-18-X008-00 (Bus: Support Equipment, Facilities, and Operating Assistance)	\$155,210.00			
49 U.S.C. Section 5324: Federal Transit Administration Emergency Relief Program			\$351,000.00	
49 U.S.C. Section 5312: Covid-19 Research Demonstration			\$300,000.00	
H.R. 3684 INVEST in America Act			\$1,680,000.00	\$8,940,000.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION	\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

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# Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## President Moïse's shocking assassination means US must reconsider its Haiti policy

**T**he middle-of-the-night assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse at his home near Port-au-Prince early Wednesday is a shocking and brutal act that will be felt far beyond the island nation.

In Miami, with its deep connections to Haiti, this bloodshed comes as cataclysmic news. It will no doubt create even greater fears that the country, already hurting for so long, will now descend into chaos.

It's not yet completely clear what happened. Initial reports indicated the attackers spoke Spanish and that some claimed to be with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, though sources told the Miami Herald those DEA claims were false. Interim premier Claude Joseph quickly condemned the attack, which also seriously injured Moïse's wife, Martine, as "odious, inhumane and barbaric."

It follows months of unrest and violence in Haiti, a poor nation of about 11 million. Since January 2020, Moïse, 53, had been ruling by decree, after the country failed to hold elections. Opposition leaders have been demanding that he step down amid a constitutional crisis and allegations that he used armed gangs to stay in power.

The assault occurred just one day after Moïse named a new prime minister to take charge of the government and prepare the country for elections in two months, including for president.

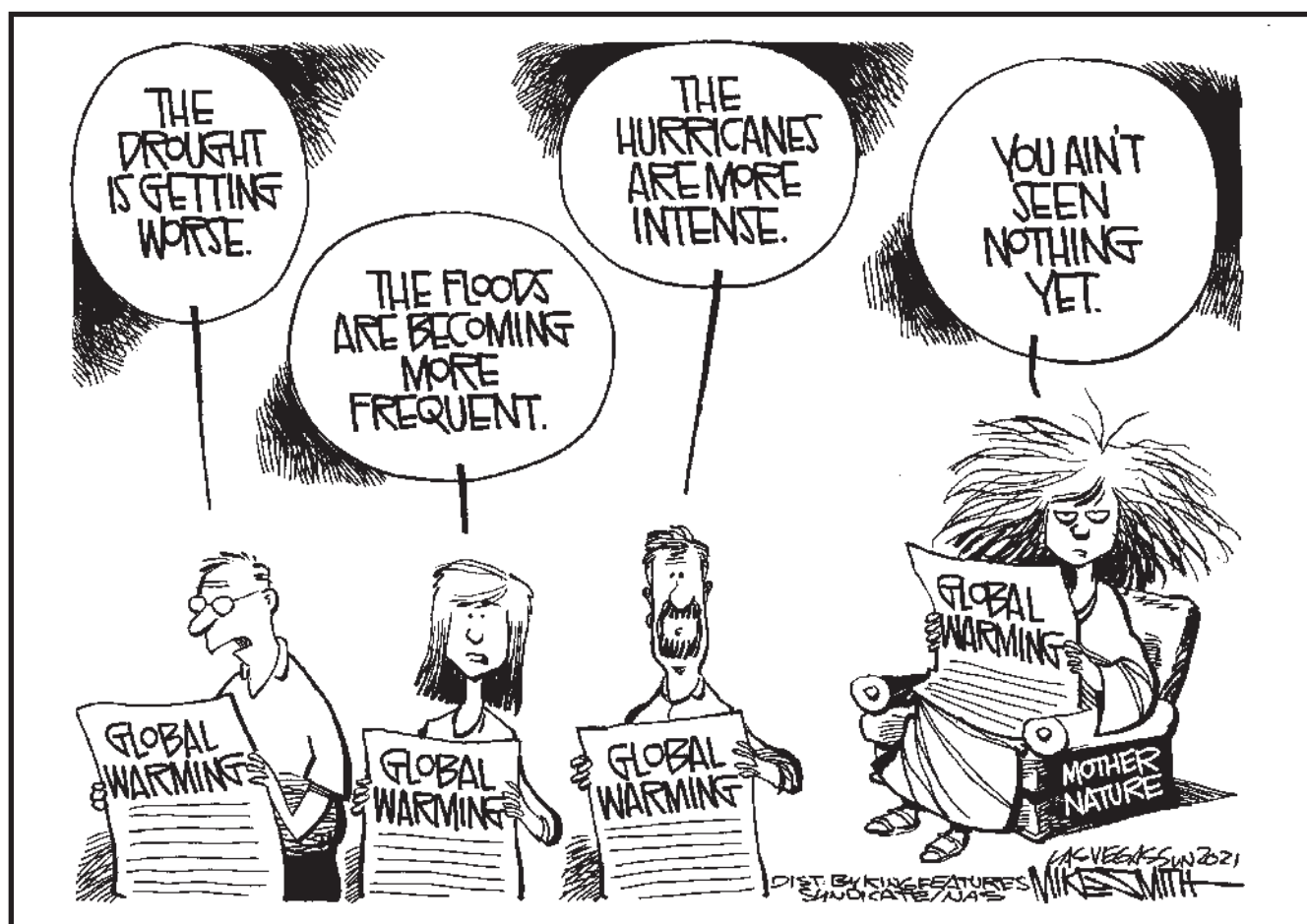
Even as the country has grown increasingly dangerous, with kidnappings on the rise along with gang violence, the Biden administration has been pushing for free and fair elections there. But not everyone agreed. In February, members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging the U.S. to back a transition government in Haiti. The lawmakers said the human rights situation there was perilous, and accused Moïse of flouting democracy.

In May, the U.S. extended 18 months of Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, to Haitians already living in the United States, an important acknowledgment that conditions in the country had grown too unstable for citizens to return safely.

The assassination of Moïse will now force new clarity in U.S. policy on Haiti. The U.S. is Haiti's biggest donor. The administration is well aware that there have been worrying signs for months that Moïse was becoming the region's newest strongman. Still, the U.S. has continued to push for "free and fair" elections in a country with too much turmoil to pull that off.

We don't yet know what the full ramifications of this assassination will be. We don't know in what direction the country will go nor exactly what the U.S. role will need to be. But there is no doubt, as we wait to learn more, that this horrific execution of the president of Haiti means the U.S. must step up, clearly and strongly, to back democracy in that tortured nation.

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## Our lack of curiosity is a threat to democracy

**D**riving through Montana, I stopped at nearly every historical marker. Back home in Oregon, I'd zoom right by the equivalent signs.

When I got my haircut at Bob's Barber Shop on Broadway in Red Lodge, I asked about local Montanan politics, the state of the local economy, and details on why and how the barber ended up in this small slice of a huge state. Back in Portland, I'd probably just settle for talking about the weather.

A stop at Red Lodge Ales was an excuse to get some great beers and meet new people. If I were in Bend, I'd stop by Crux but never bother to talk to new folks; after all, I'd surely be meeting some friends there.

There's something about being a visitor somewhere that makes you more willing to ask questions, explore history and connect with strangers. That sense of curiosity shouldn't be reserved for when you're traveling in a new spot. That willingness to admit your lack of expertise should be true in your own community. That acceptance of the fact that others have valid and varied perspectives should apply to conversations with your neighbors, not just newly discovered friends.

The lack of curiosity among Americans is a threat to our democracy. More and more folks feel more and more certain they have the exclusive answer to the most complex questions society has arguably ever faced. This certainty has led to ideas being dismissed too quickly (see the COVID lab-leak hypothesis) and others being embraced too wholly (see unabashed support for raising the minimum wage despite, at best, inconclusive and mixed economic support for the policy).

A perfect storm has formed to quash those willing to ask questions. Social media is no longer a space that caters to the curious. A wrong question even a decade ago could come to haunt your future self. Our K-12 curriculum often requires students to identify the "right" answer even in the context of ambiguous inquiries such as, why was the Civil War fought? Our politics rewards those who refrain from flip flopping by signing unequivocal pledges and voicing undying support for specific demagogues.

We need a coalition of the curious. A coalition that respects those who dared ask a "wrong" question. A coalition that encourages experimentation with new ideas, policies and plans. A coalition that shuns the ease of embracing the familiar—be it a setting, a social circle or an ideology—or the growth promised by learning from novel experiences and encounters.

This coalition can transform our politics, our culture and our economy. On politics, the space for curiosity has rapidly shrunk. According to the Pew Research Center:

Twenty years ago, the median Democrat was to the left of 64%

By **KEVIN FRAZIER**  
The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier, a student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, runs The Oregon Way, a nonpartisan blog.



of Republicans, while the median Republican was to the right of 70% of Democrats. Put differently, in 1994 23% of Republicans were more liberal than the median Democrat; while 17% of Democrats were more conservative than the median Republican. Today, those numbers are just 4% and 5%, respectively.

That was in 2014. This has assuredly gotten worse in the past seven years. Pew refers to this trend as an increase in "ideologically consistent" individuals. A more blunt phrase would be "ideologically incurious" individuals. When politics starts to reward asking questions, candidates and voters alike can start learning and, as a result, progressing.

On culture, no one likes a know-it-all, unless, of course, you entirely agree with that person. We've become a country of know-it-alls. WebMD experts, Google search masters, and The New York Times or Wall Street Journal consumers who refuse to accept the possibility that other sources of quality information may exist. Experts be damned. In this culture, it's easy to spot and, consequently, shun those who somehow don't know all you know.

In such an ethos, there's no point in seeking out strangers. That's why we need to consciously pursue ways to introduce ourselves and others to new perspectives. The most transformative way would be through a national service program that sent kids across the country to really learn what it's like to grow up in another part of our nation. Other solutions, like Cass Sunstein's suggestion for social media feeds that introduce you to new ideas, would help, too.

On the economy, curiosity is essential to innovation. Case in point: the lightbulb. It was the product of a culture of curiosity. Dozens, if not hundreds, of individuals were seeking out the best way to produce consistent, long-lasting light. Eventually, one guy found the answer, but only by being immersed in a community of similarly curious individuals.

Curiosity may have killed the cat, but incuriosity will end our democracy, stifle our economy and cabin us to befriend only those who share our ideas.

Will you join the coalition of the curious?

# Biden knows Afghanistan will get uglier. No wonder he'd rather not talk about it

Last week, when reporters asked President Joe Biden whether he worried that Afghanistan's government might collapse in the face of Taliban military advances, he responded with ill-concealed annoyance.

"I want to talk about happy things," he said.

The president went on to answer—he said the regime could survive, but only if its members stop squabbling—but then called a halt.

"I'm not going to answer any more quick questions on Afghanistan," he said.

It's no mystery why: Subjects like job-creation reports or the U.S. recovery from the pandemic let Biden talk about successes. Afghanistan offers only a choice of failures.

The news is dire. The Taliban has seized much of the country's territory; the Afghan government's armed forces, which the United States spent more than \$88 billion building, appear to be disintegrating. In the areas they conquer, the Taliban is reimposing Islamic fundamentalist rule, including oppressive treatment of women. If the government survives, the country could quickly descend into civil war.

"The devastation and the killings ... President Biden is going to own these ugly images," Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, warned this week.

That was a partisan jab but nonetheless true, and Biden knows it: Presidents get blamed for disasters that occur on their watch, whether they caused them or not.

Biden has seen that. He was vice president when President Obama withdrew U.S. forces from Iraq to general acclaim in 2011, only to come under fire when Islamic State rampaged across the country in 2014.

So even if Biden would rather talk about "happy things," he'll have to remain engaged in Afghanistan—for political reasons as well as for national security and humanitarian ones.

That means he'll need to push for negotiations between the

Taliban and the Kabul government in hopes of reaching a peace agreement, or at least preventing a bloodbath, which diplomats consider more achievable.

It means warning that the U.S. will use force against terrorists in areas under Taliban control, just as it does in other countries.

It means mounting an energetic effort to help more than 18,000 Afghans who worked for the U.S. military get out of the country with their families.

And it means updating contingency plans to evacuate the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, which still has about 4,000 employees, including 1,800 Americans, guarded by some 650 U.S. troops.

No wonder Biden is tetchy when asked about the subject. He's holding a bag left to him by three earlier presidents: George W. Bush, who launched the 2001 invasion but then focused on Iraq; Obama, who tried to stabilize the country with a temporary surge of troops; and Donald Trump, who promised to pull out but never quite delivered.

No matter their approaches, Afghanistan's government remained corrupt, factionalized and largely incapable of defending itself.

Biden, who supported the invasion as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was a skeptic by 2009, when, as vice president, he argued not very privately against Obama's surge. Twelve years later, when he became president himself, only bad options remained.

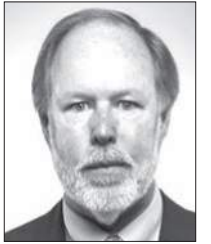
Trump promised the Taliban that the remaining 3,500 U.S. troops would leave the country by May 1, 2021; in exchange, the Taliban made two promises: not to attack Americans and to engage in serious peace talks. They kept the first—no American has died in combat in 17 months—but broke the second.

Biden's choices were to either maintain the U.S. troop presence, which would almost surely prompt Taliban attacks, or to complete the withdrawal.

He chose to lance the boil and get out.

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times



*Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at [doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com](mailto:doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com).*

So far, the political cost has been negligible, largely because most Americans have long since accepted that the military effort had failed. (A majority reached that conclusion by 2014, according to a Pew Research Center poll.)

Republicans are divided over the issue—a legacy from Trump, who broke from his party's traditional hawkish stance. When Biden announced his decision to withdraw the last troops, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky called it "a grave mistake," but Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said he was "glad the troops are coming home."

Many polls suggest that Americans have simply lost interest in the faraway conflict, especially when no U.S. troops are getting killed.

Still, Biden will rightly be judged by the outcome; especially by whether a Taliban victory turns Afghanistan into a base for Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups—the reason American forces invaded in the first place.

If there's good news in a dismal situation, it's this: The administration appears to be working on all the items on the departure checklist.

The last two decades have been painful for American foreign policy, but at least they have taught some useful lessons.

Afghanistan isn't the first war the U.S. has lost. We're a more experienced nation now—sadder, but maybe wiser too.

## Sha'Carri Richardson shouldn't have to apologize for being human

By **JIREH DENG**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last month, Sha'Carri Richardson's name was splashed across the sports pages as she became the sixth-fastest woman to run 100 meters, finishing in 10.72 seconds. Her bold hair, tattoos and unabashed love for her girlfriend made her a symbol for other 21-year-old queer women of color like myself, seeing her break social conventions and become a contender for a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

As swiftly as the praise came, so followed the backlash after Richardson tested positive for marijuana, putting her Tokyo Olympic dreams in doubt. Richardson apologized in an interview with NBC's "Today" show and later tweeted, "I am human."

Richardson was ineligible to compete in the individual 100-meter race in Tokyo, but there was a chance after her 30-day suspension she could compete for the United States in the 4x100-meter relay. These hopes were dashed Tuesday, when the U.S. track and field team announced its relay team list, which did not include Richardson.

I understand that coaches and officials want to preserve fairness by keeping the original relay members, but what happened to Richardson was anything but just.

What's heartbreaking is seeing Richardson explain to the public how marijuana was a way to cope with her emotional distress

in the wake of her mother's death. What's enraging is the fact that marijuana is legal in Oregon, where the Olympic trials were held, and there's been no indication that marijuana is a sports-enhancing drug. If anything, marijuana would decrease one's athletic performance, because it impairs judgment and movement. The World Anti-Doping Agency has listed the substance as a danger to athletes for this reason, but penalizing athletes who need mental health support only exacerbates the problem.

A lot has changed since 2009, when photos leaked of Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps taking a hit on a bong; the laws on marijuana use are simply outdated. Thirty-six states have legalized medical marijuana, and in certain social contexts, consuming or smoking marijuana is as commonplace as taking a sip of wine.

The issue to focus on is more than just antiquated approaches to cannabis but also the way Black women athletes face intense scrutiny in the media. These women are put on a pedestal because of their athleticism and what they represent as symbols enduring sexism and racism, but we forget that they too are like us, experiencing moments of intense grief, private pain and occasional lapses in judgment.

Recently, Brianna McNeal, who had qualified for the 100-meter hurdles in Tokyo, was forced to come out publicly about having an abortion in order to challenge a five-year suspension by the Court of Arbitration for Sport for a drug test violation. In March, Naomi Osaka, ranked as one of the top players by

the Women's Tennis Association, refused to take part in news conferences at the French Open for mental health reasons and was fined \$15,000, leading her to withdraw from the tournament to rest.

Richardson has apologized and taken responsibility for her actions, vowing to never again fail a drug test, but she shouldn't have to be sorry for anything.

In the world of high-level sports, where bodies are fine-tuned like machines cranked to their optimum levels, athletes are under immense stress. Officials apply the rules in a legalistic manner under the banner of equality, but it seems at times more like a witch hunt to prove fault and error. We hold athletes to impossible standards of perfection because they represent to us the best of the human spirit and work ethic. It can be easy to forget that life is messy and people aren't always performing at their best.

Richardson's gracious acceptance of the consequences and willingness to learn show the depth of her maturity and strengthen the example she sets for young people. She is human just like us, struggling through the loss of a loved one and trying to find ways to heal.

The good news is that, as the fastest woman in the U.S. today, Richardson should have more chances for gold at future Olympics.

*Jireh Deng (she/they) is a 2021 summer Editorial Pages and Op-Ed intern at the Los Angeles Times.*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Travel bubble is premature

Taking into account the obvious great success of the CNMI's efforts to control the SARS-CoV-2 virus (along with the Commonwealth's vaccination program/high rate of vaccinations), opening a cooperative tourism travel bubble with the Republic of Korea (South Korea) is entirely premature.

South Korea is currently experiencing a new wave of novel coronavirus infections which includes the hyper-transmissible Delta viral variant. Nearly 800 cases were reported for just this past Tuesday alone.

As most everyone knows, the CNMI cannot afford, in both terms of human loss/suffering and possessing a health care system that could be quickly overwhelmed, to gamble with allowing the Delta variant to gain a foothold in the islands. All it takes

is one infected person slipping through testing and entry controls to start a possibly horrible cascade. Let's be honest here in acknowledging testing is not infallible nor is vaccination a guarantee of not being able of infecting others.

I also respectfully suggest considering not allowing any unvaccinated visitors from Japan be allowed to visit the CNMI as the current situation, particularly since Tokyo is far from being under control—current test positivity rates support that assertion. There were over 900 cases reported Wednesday in the Japanese capital. A new state of emergency is to be declared Thursday and the Olympics are reportedly going to be held without any spectators.

These suggestions are made in order of hoping to protect the people of the CNMI. As an American and having previously vis-

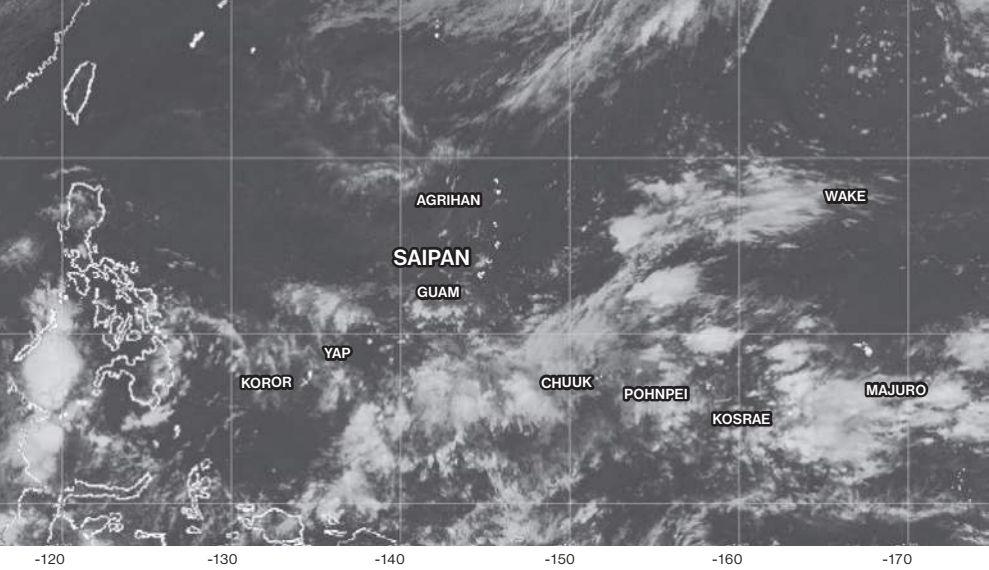
ited Saipan and Tinian (and planning to make Saipan my home in the near future), I care about the citizens and communities that make up the Commonwealth. I understand the important role of international tourism in the local economy and by no means am I saying to never welcome back visitors to your beautiful and hospitable islands, I'm simply making the recommendation (based upon science, common sense and my understanding of the evolving nature of the global pandemic) that the present is not the time. Hopefully soon it will be, but not now.

**Mark Farmer**

*US Coast Guard, ret.  
Tokyo, Japan*

# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorm		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	
88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers continue to cross Guam and its coastal waters, with isolated showers farther north. Additional isolated to widely scattered showers are seen east of the Marianas this morning as well. The latest observations at the Ipan Buoy continue to show combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, with a water temperature of 86 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:51 AM	6:17 PM	-
Saturday	5:43 AM	7:09 PM	-
Sunday	6:37 AM	7:59 PM	-
Monday	7:32 AM	8:45 PM	-
Tuesday	8:27 AM	9:29 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	55° / 43°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
New York	Thunderstorms	73° / 68°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 72°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	97° / 75°	
San Francisco	Windy	66° / 54°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	87° / 73°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:23 AM	Low Tide	1.45	
6:01 AM	High Tide	1.92	
1:34 PM	Low Tide	-0.06	
8:54 PM	High Tide	1.95	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# Travel updates for United Airlines' Hawaii-bound passengers

GUAM—As the demand increase, United Airlines reminds Guam customers of the

enhanced safety protocols required by the State of Hawaii and for destinations beyond the Aloha State.

Justin Marion, United's general manager of airport operations in Guam, said, "Travel and safety requirements have changed significantly for every destination as a result of COVID-19. There are a few more steps that passengers need to take before departing Guam, and we ask United customers traveling to Hawaii to allow additional time for processing through for their flight."

Enhanced federal, Hawaii, and Guam safety protocols require passengers to allow more time to clear the Guam Airport health screening, Transportation Security Administration checkpoints, Hawaii pre-clearance, and U.S. Immigration requirements before departing for Hawaii. Passengers are asked to check in for their Hawaii flights at least three hours before and no less than 90 minutes before departure.

## United extends Hawaii pre-clearance benefits to Guam passengers

"For travel to Hawaii, United passengers can pre-clear in Guam and bypass the screening lines when they land.

This step is designed to ensure a safer experience and a smoother arrivals process in Hawaii," Marion said.

In May, United announced that it is extending the Hawaii Pre-Clearance process to Guam to assist Hawaii-bound passengers to meet Hawaii's travel requirements before landing. Hawaii requires that

uploaded the required test results. United issues passengers a blue United wristband if they qualify to bypass airport screening in Hawaii. Transiting passengers will need to enroll in the Hawaii Safe Travels site and answer the questionnaire to receive a wristband. Customers who have been pre-cleared and receive a wristband will be

### IN BRIEF

- Guam passengers are asked to check in for their Hawaii flights at least three hours before and no less than 90 minutes before departure
- Enhanced federal, state, and local safety protocols require outbound Guam passengers to allow more time for processing before departure
- Customers traveling to Honolulu save time by pre-clearing in Guam

terminating travelers present a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of departure to avoid the government-required quarantine.

At the Guam Airport, United has set up a special Hawaii Pre-clearance desk at the departure gate to assist transiting passengers before they board. United helps to ensure that all passengers have enrolled in Hawaii's Safe Travels program, completed the COVID-19 questionnaire within 24 hours from departure, and

able to skip the screenings in Hawaii and begin their trip as soon as they land.

"We thank our customers in Guam, the Marianas, and Micronesia for their understanding and patience as they begin to enjoy travel again," Marion said. "Our focus is to keep customers and employees safe throughout their journey while helping them enjoy a smooth arrival process in Hawaii. It is our pleasure to welcome our customers back, and we are here to assist them with any

## » Check in for Hawaii flights at least 3 hours before and no less than 90 minutes before departure

questions they have about the travel process."

## Enhancing customer experience and elevating systemwide safety

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, United made numerous enhancements to its business that improve the travel experience and make travel safer for its customers and employees through more touchless services. Customers can access flight information, check in, download boarding passes, and board United flights using the United app on their smartphones.

This year, United announced its new Travel-Ready Center in the United app and online where customers can review COVID-19 travel requirements by destination, find local testing options, and upload any testing and vaccination records that their destinations require. United also began allowing all customers to fly standby on another flight to the same destination on the same day for free, and all MileagePlus® Premier® members now confirm a new flight on the same day to the same destinations at check-in when space is available in the same fare class. The United CleanPlus program continues to team up with Clorox and the Cleveland Clinic to guide its cleaning and safety protocols. (PR)



### PACIFICA'S SHOE GIVEAWAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. health member Rudolpho Cruz wins a pair of premium shoes through the company's Shoe Giveaway campaign. In partnership with The Athlete's Foot, Cruz will also be given access to the MyFit foot analysis system that guarantees a pair that fits. Pacifica's Giveaway was designed to encourage its health insurance group members to continue living a healthy lifestyle. Open to members of the CNMI Government Group Health Insurance and private health groups under Pacifica. Giveaway will run until end of July. Details about this Giveaway can be found on Pacifica's Facebook and Instagram pages. Stay Covid-19 free and rest assured, CNMI. [www.pacificains.com](http://www.pacificains.com).



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016

#### SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A 1.5 MW TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL GENERATING SET WITH ENCLOSURE FOR THE CUC POWER PLANT NO. 3, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than July 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2021 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to CUC's Water Utility Coordinator, Yvonne C. Ogunmoro via email address [yvonne.ogunmoro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogunmoro@cucgov.org), CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address [richard.cano@cucgov.org](mailto:richard.cano@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios  
Lt. Governor

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

*This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.*

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepared a PHA Five Year Plan for the upcoming five years. NMHC has not made any changes to the goals, objectives and policies on the Five Year Plan that was submitted and approved. Therefore, NMHC would like to inform the general public that:

1. NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the Five Year PHA Plan on July 12, 2021, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
2. NMHC will open the public comment period from May 25, 2021 through July 12, 2021; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2021 to:

- Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Attn: PHA Five Year Plan  
P.O. Box 500514  
Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the Five year PHA Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the Five year PHA plan are available for viewing on our website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**





UNITED STATES  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program

Bldg. No. 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565 • Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Email: [cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com](mailto:cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com)



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities 2022 – 2026 Five Year State Plan Goals & Objectives

Each State Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council is required to submit a 5-Year State Plan to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) outlining the intended use of federal funding allocated for its basic operational grant. State Plans are focused on improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities through full inclusion and participation in all aspects of community life. The federal government expects DD Councils to identify goals that can be achieved in five years using available resources. Federal law mandates that the State Plan address some or all the Areas of Emphasis established by Congress in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act).

### *The Areas of Emphasis are as follow:*

*Child Care – Community Supports – Early Intervention – Education – Employment – Health Related—Housing—Quality Assurance—Recreation—Transportation*

CNMI CDD's proposed priorities are set forth in our Five-Year State Plan, which is developed based on data gathered from a statewide needs assessment of the most pressing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and the areas of emphasis that the Council will focus on for the next five years. Strategies may include public policy advocacy, leadership developmental and collaboration to name a few. Please note that CNMI CDD does not provide direct services.

## CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2022 – 2026 Goals & Objectives

### **Goal 1 – Self Advocacy**

Promote and support the development of leadership and self advocacy capacity among people with development disabilities.

#### **Objective 1.1 – Self-Advocacy**

Provide support to strengthen a State Self-Advocacy organization led by people with developmental disabilities.

#### **Objective 1.2 – Self-Advocacy**

Support opportunities for people with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.

#### **Objective 1.3 – Self-Advocacy**

Support participation of people with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

### **Goal 2 – Service System Improvement**

The Council will work with partners on at least two (2) systems change initiative and provide information, education, and skill building activities each year so that individuals and/or students with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have improved transition services from high school through post-school transition into meaningful post-school outcomes with adequate services and supports and increased opportunities in employment in the CNMI.

### **Objective 2.1 – Employment**

By 2023, create more opportunities for young adults and job seekers with developmental disabilities to have meaningful employment opportunities with competitive wages and exhibit their abilities and skills in an inclusive environment working alongside their peers without disabilities by working with the CNMI Disability Network Partners to educate communities, training staff, and writing one state policy by September 2023 to improve services that support fully integrated, competitive employment.

### **Objective 2.2 – Transition**

By 2023, collaborate with the CNMI Transition Coalition, the CNMI Disability Network Partners and others to create or improve at least one practice designed to improve transition outcomes for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities from high school through postsecondary education/training.

### **Goal 3 - Respite Care**

Family members and/or Caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities and individuals who are medically fragile will have access to respite services made available through the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (Commonwealth Respite Services Program) (CNMI PL 20-43).

### **Objective 3.1 - Respite Care**

By 2023, collaborate with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and partners to improve and/or expand training to thirty (30) respite caregivers in underserved and unserved communities of Tinian and Rota.

### **Goal 4 - Emergency Preparedness**

People with developmental disabilities will be afforded the same level of safety as all, be involved in the process to plan, advocate, and take charge for themselves when an emergency arise, and to have a clear idea of what to do in such situation.

### **Objective 4.1 – Emergency Preparedness**

By 2023, collaborate with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, CNMI Disability Network Partners, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, CNMI CORE and other community -based stakeholders to effectively incorporate the functional and accessibility needs of CNMI residents with developmental disabilities in emergency planning.

### **Your Input Wanted:**

Public review of the Five Year State is required by law and helps us improve the plan. The public review period provides a 45-day window of opportunity for CNMI residents to evaluate the newly developed Goals and Objectives, and to share their comments so we can make improvements. We also welcome your suggestions for strategies and activities to help us achieve these goals and objectives.

The Five Year State Plan will be available at the office of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, building #1310, Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill or you may contact our office at (670) 664-7000/3/5. Other accessible formats of the document are available upon request.

Please submit written comments by email to [cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com](mailto:cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com). For each comment, please reference goal number and objective number.

### **Comment period:**

**June 9 – July 23, 2021**

Comments must be received via email by 4:30 p.m. CHST on July 23, 2021.

Thank you for your input!



## Business

# Spicy Thai Noodle Place opens in Puerto Rico

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The eat-all-you-can restaurant known for its shrimp fried rice, pad Thai chicken, red and green curry, and ever-so addicting fried chicken wings has moved to a spanking new three-story building along Middle Road in Puerto Rico.

Executive assistant Jeane Bracken said the former Spicy Thai Restaurant in Garapan is temporarily closed for renovation, while Spicy Thai Noodle Place opened in Puerto Rico to serve the hardworking men and women who work in the industrial area of Saipan.

She said the move to the



MARK RABAGO

Spicy Thai Noodle Place can now comfortably sit 120 customers at its cavernous new digs.

new building was five years in the making. A lot of tears, sweat, determination, and tolerance were spent to bring their idea into fruition.

Bracken said the new location allowed them to expand

as they now have comfortable seating for as many as 120 customers and access to a modern kitchen.

"The reception has been very good. Everyone is amazed about the building. It's roomy



MARK RABAGO

From eight items, Spicy Thai Noodle Place's buffet offering has now expanded to 11

and it's more of a restaurant feel than a house feel. Some of the regulars, however, said they're [going to] miss the old place across [the American Memorial Park] because it had a bathtub," she said in jest.

The challenge so far is trying to get used to the inflow



MARK RABAGO

Spicy Thai Noodle Place's new site is on the ground floor of a three-story building in Puerto Rico along Middle Road.

of people. They've been jam-packed since opening the new place last June 24.

"As you can see, we're nearly always packed during our lunch buffet. It's been overwhelming and we haven't even advertised yet; only through social media: Facebook and Instagram," said Bracken.

And while they raised their buffet price from \$12 to \$15, Spicy Thai Noodle Place now has more items on its smorgasbord. "At \$15, there's more choices in the buffet. Before, there were only eight choices. Now we have like 11 choices. Drinks are not included but it's now free refills. The \$3 Thai milk tea is especially popular as well as the \$2 iced tea," she said.

Joining the familiar Thai cuisine staples are fried veggie spring rolls, papaya salad, cucumber salad, fruits, and two other Thai dishes that change everyday. As an added plus, Spicy Thai Noodle Place will soon include Häagen-Dazs in their eat-all-you-can lineup.

Those who want to skirt the buffet spread can still order from the menu or simply opt

for the \$10 four-choice bento meals that come packed by The Spicy Thai staff.

While the buffet continues to be their meal ticket, Spicy Thai Noodle Place is holding true to its roots—a Thai grocery store still resides in the corner of the premises.

Bracken's mother, Waree, established the business as a Thai grocery store in San Antonio in 1995 before expanding into a three-table Thai noodle house two years later. Spicy Thai Noodle Place also does catering. Future plans include opening a cocktail bar in the mezzanine of the building.

Spicy Thai Noodle Place is open from Monday to Sunday, 11am-9pm, with buffet lunch from 11am to 3pm—hands down the most late you can have a lunch buffet on island.

"A lot of people work during lunchtime and they're hungry after they go to lunch at 2pm, but every other buffet restaurant closes at 2pm so we thought let's make it until 3pm. A la carte is 11am to 9pm," said Bracken.

For reservations, catering, or for more information, call 323-3000 and 235-3000.

## MILLENNIAL MONEY: What will you teach your kids about money?

By AMRITA JAYAKUMAR  
NERDWallet

Hey, internet: Remember millennials? Many of us have graduated from our lattes and leisurely brunches to become parents with jobs, car loans and perhaps even a mortgage.

On our road to adulthood, we've experienced two global crises—a recession and a pandemic. Many of us are also still carrying mountains of student debt. These years have shaped our outlook on money, and now we're teaching our kids what we know.

Here are the money lessons five millennial parents around the country want their children to learn (answers have been edited for length and clarity):

### 'Don't ever think your child is too young to learn'

Lauryann Vaughn, 37, of Kissimmee, Florida, is a single parent to two daughters, ages 5 and 4. She runs a day care that closed during the pandemic but has since reopened. She is also an active volunteer.

"I don't want to pass on the fact that I was not taught about money. I think the earlier you teach your children, the better. I already teach them that there's pretty much three principles with money. The No. 1 thing is giving. The second thing is saving. And the third thing is, what you have left is what you can enjoy. My principles are a little different, there's really four: I pay bills, then I give, I save and have money left over to enjoy. Teaching them at their level is better than not teaching them



because you're waiting for them to get to a level."

### 'It's better to be a working student and leave college with much less debt'

Mae Waugh Barrios, 34, of Holliston, Massachusetts, is a parent to three children, ages 10, 4, and 2. She is an instructional coach for middle school and is on an unpaid leave of absence to look after her children during the pandemic. Her husband, Francisco, runs a landscaping business. She has \$20,000 in student loans left to pay off.

"That was the biggest mistake I made in my whole life. Everyone said go to whatever college you want, just take the loans. Nobody told me the real after-effects of student loans. My husband didn't go to college. Our plan is to open a college savings account for (our children) when I go back to work. It's (also) better to be a working student and leave college with much less debt. My husband and I have made sure we don't get so bogged down by debt that we can't survive. We talk a lot at the dinner table about being rich

and being poor. If you are rich, your money works for you. If you are poor, you work for money."

### 'A greater emphasis on experiences'

Steffa Mantilla, 36, of Houston has a 4-year-old son. She is a certified financial education instructor, a former zookeeper and founder of the personal finance website Money Tamer.

"In our household, we're putting a greater emphasis on 'experiences' rather than 'things.' (For my son's birthday), instead of buying tons of presents, we'll buy one present and then tickets to the children's museum or local zoo. We encourage relatives to give gifts of experience, as well, that they can do together. This puts the focus on family and friends while also teaching him to live with less stuff around."

### 'Not being afraid to invest'

Alan LaFrance, 37, of Austin, Texas, has a 5-year-old son. He works in digital marketing and his wife, Meladee, is a respiratory therapist.

"You could pay for a car

In this Jan. 21, 2020 file photo, dollar bills have been dropped into a tip jar at a carwash in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

in cash, but you could (get) a loan for that car and take that capital and invest it. If you can make more with that money, you're in a much better situation overall. At some point you can't just squirrel everything away, you have to start letting the money work for you. As parents, we want our kids to save, but in reality, you can do that too much and really miss out on a lot of opportunity."

### 'Build another stream of income'

Jernessa Jones, 39, of Florence, Alabama, is a single parent to a 6-year-old son and is an accredited financial counselor at Operation Hope, a financial literacy nonprofit. She graduated from an MBA program during the pandemic and started a fashion accessory business.

"My mom and dad didn't own a business and neither were homeowners. I was looking for houses last year because homeownership is the first step to building generational wealth. I realized I could afford the mortgages for some of the houses I looked at, but I'd probably be house poor. I decided to step back and see what I could do to build another stream of income. Entrepreneurship was another thing I could teach my son about. From beginning to end, even when I opened my business bank account, he was there."

## Trump files suit against Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Donald Trump has filed suit against three of the country's biggest tech companies, claiming he and other conservatives have been wrongfully censored. But legal experts say the suits are likely doomed to fail, given existing precedent and legal protections.

Trump announced the action against Facebook, Twitter and Google's YouTube, along with the companies' Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Dorsey and Sundar Pichai, at a press conference Wednesday in New Jersey, where he demanded that his accounts be reinstated.

Trump has been suspend-

ed from the platforms since January, when his followers violently stormed the Capitol building, trying to block Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential win. The companies cited concerns that Trump would incite further violence and have kept him locked out. All three declined comment Wednesday.

"We're asking the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida to order an immediate halt to social media companies' illegal, shameful censorship of the American people," Trump said of the filings. "We're going to hold big tech very accountable."

# Nation

AP

A search and rescue team members dig through the rubble of the Champlain Towers South condo, Wednesday, July 7, 2021.



## Crews give up hope of finding survivors at collapse site

**SURFSIDE, Fla.** (AP)—Emergency workers gave up Wednesday on any hope of finding survivors in the collapsed Florida condo building, telling sobbing families that there was “no chance of life” in the rubble as crews shifted their efforts to recovering more remains.

The announcement followed increasingly somber reports from emergency officials, who said they sought to prepare families for the worst.

“At this point, we have truly exhausted every option available to us in the search-and-rescue mission,” Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

said at a news conference.

“We have all asked God for a miracle, so the decision to transition from rescue to recovery is an extremely difficult one,” she said.

Eight more bodies were recovered Wednesday, bringing the death toll to 54, the mayor said. Thirty-three of the dead have been identified, and 86 people are still unaccounted for.

Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told families at a private briefing that crews would stop using rescue dogs and listening devices but would continue to search for their loved ones.

“Our sole responsibility at this point is to bring closure,” he said as relatives cried in the background.

Unlike some collapses that create W-shaped spaces where people can survive, a “pancake collapse” like the one in Surfside tends not to leave livable spaces, Jadallah said.

“Where a pancake collapses, unfortunately it is a floor or a wall on top of a floor on top of a floor on top of a floor,” he said. “Typically, an individual has a specific amount of time in re-

gards to lack of food, water and air. This collapse just doesn’t provide any of that sort.”

Miami-Dade Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said he expected the recovery operation to take several more weeks.

The formal transition was to take place at midnight. Hours before the official change of mission, rescue workers, their helmets held to their hearts and their boots covered in dust, joined local officials, rabbis and chaplains in a moment of silence. The rabbis and chap-

lains walked down a line of officials, many of them sobbing, and hugged them one by one.

A Miami-Dade fire helicopter flew over the site. As the ceremony neared its end, an accordion player unseen on a nearby tennis court played Aaron Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man,” which was followed by a piccolo playing “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Firefighters from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the federal government and elsewhere were also present.

On a tall nearby fence, families and well-wishers had posted photos of the victims, supportive messages and flowers. Firefighters hung a banner atop the fence that read “Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Mourns With You.”

Hope of finding survivors was briefly rekindled after workers demolished the remainder of the building on Sunday, allowing rescuers access to new areas of debris they hoped would contain “voids,” or open pockets with enough room for a person.

## Pace of California wildfires are well ahead of disastrous 2020

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—The number of wildfires and amount of land burned in parched California so far this year greatly exceed totals for the same period in the disastrous wildfire year of 2020.

Between Jan. 1 and July 4, there were 4,599 fires that scorched 114.8 square miles (297 square kilometers), according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

In the same time frame last year, there were 3,847 fires that blackened 48.6 square miles (126 square kilometers).

By the end of 2020, a total of 9,917 wildfires had charred a record 6,653 square miles (17,231 square kilometers) and damaged or destroyed 10,488 structures. Thirty-three people were killed.

This year’s increased wildfire activity, which has damaged or destroyed 91 struc-

tures, has been driven by hot and dry conditions, Cal Fire said this week.

The entire state is in the grip of drought, much of it classified as extreme or exceptional. After a dry winter and early heat waves, the landscape is covered in extremely dry vegetation.

Two of the three large wildfires burning for more than a week in the state’s far north were more than 70% contained Wednesday while the stubborn Salt Fire north of Redding was 25% surrounded. A big fire in northern Los Angeles County was 88% contained.

On Wednesday afternoon, a helicopter fighting the Lava Fire near Mount Shasta went down in a nearby lake. But the pilot managed to swim and walk away, the U.S. Forest Service reported. No passengers were aboard. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### As New York salutes health workers, Missouri fights a surge

New York held a ticker-tape parade Wednesday for the health care workers and others who helped the city pull through the darkest days of COVID-19, while authorities in Missouri struggled to beat back a surge blamed on the fast-spreading delta variant and deep resistance to getting vaccinated. The split-screen images could be a glimpse of what public health experts say may lie ahead for the U.S. even as life gets back to something close to normal: outbreaks in corners of the country with low vaccination rates. “We’ve got a lot to appreciate, because we’re well underway in our recovery,” declared New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who rode on a parade float with hospital employees down the Canyon of Heroes, the skyscraper-lined stretch of Broadway where astronauts, returning soldiers and championship teams are feted. In Missouri,

meanwhile, the Springfield area has been hit so hard that one hospital had to borrow ventilators over the Fourth of July weekend and begged on social media for help from respiratory therapists, several of whom volunteered from other states. Members of a new federal “surge response team” also began arriving to help suppress the outbreak. (AP)

#### Tropical storm kills 1 in Florida, hurts 10 at Georgia base

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** (AP)—A weakened but resilient Tropical Storm Elsa killed at least one person in Florida on Wednesday and injured several others when a possible tornado struck a campground at a Navy base in southeast Georgia. The National Hurricane Center said Elsa still packed 45 mph (72 kph) winds more than nine hours after making landfall along Florida’s northern Gulf Coast. The storm’s center was sweeping over southeast Georgia by 8 p.m.

Wednesday. Elsa seemed to spare Florida from significant damage, though it still threatened flooding downpours and caused several tornado warnings. The coasts of Georgia and South Carolina were under a tropical storm warning. Forecasters predicted Elsa would remain a tropical storm into Friday, and issued a tropical storm watch from North Carolina to Massachusetts. Authorities in Jacksonville, Florida, said one person was killed Wednesday when a tree fell and struck two cars. The National Weather Service reported 50 mph (80 kph) wind gusts in the city. The tree fell during heavy rains and no one else was injured, according to Capt. Eric Prosswimmer of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department.

#### Police officer fatally shot in ambush near federal building

**TERRE HAUTE, Ind.** (AP)—A western Indiana police officer was fatally shot

Wednesday when he was ambushed near FBI offices in Terre Haute, according to federal officials. Sgt. Ryan Adamson of the Terre Haute Police Department identified the officer as 30-year veteran Detective Greg Ferency. Ferency had been a federal task force officer since 2010, the FBI said in a statement. “An FBI agent shot and wounded the suspect who is currently in custody receiving medical attention at a local hospital,” the FBI said in a statement late Wednesday that also indicated Ferency was “ambushed” at the FBI Indianapolis Resident Agency. The shooting incident is under investigation by the FBI’s Inspection Division, according to authorities. “The review process is thorough and objective and is conducted as expeditiously as possible under the circumstances,” The FBI said in the statement. “The FBI takes all shooting incidents involving our agents or task force members seriously.”

# Asia

## Desperate Indonesians search for oxygen as virus cases soar

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—With his aunt gasping for breath at home from her COVID-19 infection, 17-year-old Ridho Milhasan took matters into his own hands Wednesday and went to find her some oxygen.

After his uncle scrounged an empty tank from a friend, Milhasan found an oxygen filling station in southern Jakarta, waited in the long line of others also in desperate need, and emerged triumphantly after three hours with the supply he needed.

“My aunt badly needed this oxygen,” he said before strapping the oxygen container to his small scooter. “This pandemic is getting dire.”

Across Indonesia the coronavirus is again spreading rapidly, and Wednesday was the country’s deadliest day since the start of the pandemic with 1,040 reported deaths. Hospitals are bursting beyond capacity and oxygen supplies are running out, leaving people like Milhasan to do what they can to care for sick friends and relatives at home.

In Milhasan’s case there was no other option—his uncle tried to get his aunt into multiple hospitals in Jakarta after she tested positive for COVID-19, but was turned away and told to find an oxygen tank and help her at home.

“COVID-19 patients have had difficulties to get proper medical services,” Milhasan said. “Now they have to find their own oxygen.”

Over the last two weeks, the 7-day rolling average of daily new cases in Indonesia has more than doubled from 4.72 new cases per 100,000 people



AP  
People line up to refill their oxygen tanks at a filling station in Jakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, July 7, 2021.

on June 22 to 9.85 on July 6. Over the same period, the 7-day rolling average of daily deaths has gone from 0.11 to 0.20 per 100,000 people.

Despite new lockdown measures and pledges from the government to provide more hospital beds and supplies, there’s no indication of that trend slowing.

“This is our critical period during the next two weeks,” Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the government minister in charge of Indonesia’s pandemic response, told reporters on Tuesday. He pledged to move quickly to provide more hospital beds, healthcare equipment and oxygen.

In the capital, daily burials have increased 10-fold since May, said Ngabila Salama, head of surveillance and immunization at the Jakarta Health Office. Of the 369 COVID-19 fatalities in Jakarta reported Saturday, 45 people died at home, she said.

“We are worried that this is the tip of the iceberg,” said LaporCOVID-19, an independent virus data group that keeps track of deaths at home, noting that many go unreported. “This must be addressed immediately to prevent more people from dying outside of health facilities.”

Overall, Indonesia, the world’s fourth-most populous

country, has reported nearly 2.4 million infections and almost 63,000 fatalities from COVID-19. Those figures are widely believed to be a vast undercount due to low testing and poor tracing measures.

With the health care system struggling to cope with the ever-rising numbers, even patients fortunate enough to get a hospital bed are not guaranteed oxygen.

Over the weekend, at least 33 patients with severe coronavirus infections died after the central supply of liquid medical oxygen ran out at a hospital in Yogyakarta.

Indonesia’s Hospital Association said the problem is

widespread, with many hospitals’ oxygen supplies running close to empty overnight before morning supplies are delivered.

“We need the government’s guarantee that the distribution of medical oxygen can reach hospitals as needed and in time,” said the association’s secretary general, Lia Partakusuma.

Across Java, Indonesia’s most populous island, hospitals began erecting tents in mid-June as makeshift intensive care units, and many patients waited for days before being admitted. Oxygen tanks were rolled out on the sidewalk for those lucky enough to receive them, while others were told they would need to find their own.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Chinese social media giant WeChat shuts LGBT accounts

**BANGKOK (AP)**—China’s most popular social media service has deleted accounts on LGBT topics run by university students and nongovernment groups, prompting concern the ruling Communist Party is tightening control over gay and lesbian content. WeChat sent account holders a notice they violated rules but gave no details, according to the founder of an LGBT group, who asked not to be identified further out of fear of possible official retaliation. She said dozens of accounts were shut down, all at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday. It wasn’t clear whether the step was ordered by Chinese authorities, but it comes as the ruling party tightens political controls and tries to silence groups that might criticize its rule. WeChat’s operator, Tencent Holding Ltd., confirmed it received an email seeking comment but didn’t immediately respond.

#### Myanmar protesters commemorate 1962 student resistance

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Pro-democracy demonstrators took to the streets Wednesday in cities and towns around Myanmar to commemorate students who lost their lives in 1962 when a military dictator violently suppressed protests against harsh university discipline implemented under his regime. The 1962 protests at Rangoon University, named after the city now called Yangon, implicitly criticized the March 2, 1962, coup in which Gen. Ne Win ended parliamentary democracy and instituted military rule that would last five decades. The events still resonate today in Myanmar, especially after the army’s Feb. 1 takeover that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Young people have played a leading role in resisting this year’s seizure of power and hundreds have been killed by security forces.

## Japan to declare virus emergency lasting through Olympics

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan is set to place Tokyo under a state of emergency that would last through the Olympics, fearing an ongoing COVID-19 surge will multiply during the Games.

At a meeting with experts Thursday morning, government officials proposed a plan to issue a state of emergency in Tokyo from next Monday to Aug. 22. The Summer Olympics, already delayed a year by the pandemic, begin July 23 and close Aug. 8.

The Games already will take place without foreign spectators, but the planned six-week state of emergency likely ends chances of a local audience. A decision about fans is expected later Thursday when local organizers meet with the International Olympic Committee

and other representatives.

Tokyo is currently under less-stringent measures that focus on shortened hours for bars and restaurants but have proven less effective at slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is to formally announce the emergency plans later Thursday, hours after IOC President Thomas Bach was to land in Tokyo. Bach must self-isolate for three days in the IOC’s five-star hotel in the Japanese capital before heading to Hiroshima, where heavy rain is threatening flooding.

The upcoming emergency will be the fourth for Tokyo since the pandemic began and is a last-minute change of plan made late Wednesday after a meeting with experts who

warned strongly against the government’s soft approach.

A main focus of the emergency is a request for bars, restaurants and karaoke parlors serving alcohol to close. A ban on serving alcohol is a key step to tone down Olympic-related festivities and keep people from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face stay-home requests and watch the Games on TV from home.

“How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks is a main issue,” Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said.

Tokyo reported 920 new cases on Wednesday, up from 714 last week and its highest since 1,010 on May 13. The figure is in line with experts’

earlier estimate that daily cases in Tokyo could hit 1,000 before the Games and could spike into thousands in August.

Kazuhiro Tateta, a Toho University infectious diseases expert, noted an earlier state of emergency in the spring came too late to prevent hospitals in Osaka from overflowing with patients and said another delay should not be allowed.

Ryuji Wakita, director-general of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, noted that two-thirds of Japan’s cases are from the Tokyo region and “our concern is the spread of the infections to neighboring areas.”

Experts also noted cases among younger, unvaccinated people are rising as Japan’s inoculation drive loses steam due to supply uncertainty.

# World

## Global COVID-19 deaths hit 4 million amid rush to vaccinate

By JOSHUA GOODMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The global death toll from COVID-19 eclipsed 4 million Wednesday as the crisis increasingly becomes a race between the vaccine and the highly contagious delta variant.

The tally of lives lost over the past year and a half, as compiled from official sources by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the number of people killed in battle in all

of the world's wars since 1982, according to estimates from the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

The toll is three times the number of people killed in traffic accidents around the globe every year. It is about equal to the population of Los Angeles or the nation of Georgia. It is equivalent to more than half of Hong Kong or close to 50% of New York City.

Even then, it is widely believed to be an undercount because of overlooked cases or

deliberate concealment.

With the advent of the vaccine, deaths per day have plummeted to around 7,900, after topping out at over 18,000 a day in January.

But in recent weeks, the mutant delta version of the virus first identified in India has set off alarms around the world, spreading rapidly even in vaccination success stories like the U.S., Britain and Israel.

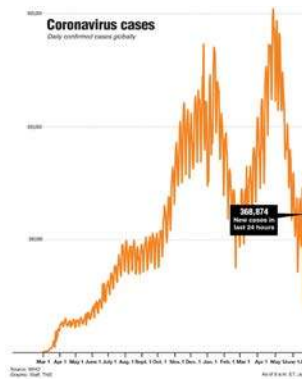
Britain, in fact, recorded a one-day total this week of

more than 30,000 new infections for the first time since January, even as the government prepares to lift all remaining lockdown restrictions in England later this month.

Other countries have reimposed preventive measures, and authorities are rushing to step up the campaign to dispense shots.

At the same time, the disaster has exposed the gap between the haves and the have-nots, with vaccination drives barely getting started in Africa and other desperately poor corners of the world because of extreme shortages of shots.

The U.S. and other wealthy



countries have agreed to share at least 1 billion doses with struggling countries.

The U.S. has the world's highest reported death toll, at over 600,000, or nearly 1 in 7 deaths, followed by Brazil

at more than 520,000, though the real numbers are believed to be much higher in Brazil, where President Jair Bolsonaro's far-right government has long downplayed the virus.

The variants, uneven access to vaccines and the relaxation of precautions in wealthier countries are "a toxic combination that is very dangerous," warned Ann Lindstrand, a top immunization official at the World Health Organization.

Instead of treating the crisis as a "me-and-myself-and-my-country" problem, she said, "we need to get serious that this is a worldwide problem that needs worldwide solutions."

## Fiery explosion erupts on ship at major global port in Dubai

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—A fiery explosion erupted on a container ship anchored in Dubai at one of the world's largest ports late Wednesday, authorities said, sending tremors across the commercial hub of the United Arab Emirates.

The blaze sent up giant orange flames on a vessel at the crucial Jebel Ali Port, the busiest in the Middle East that sits on the eastern side of the Arabian Peninsula.

The combustion unleashed a shock wave through the skyscraper-studded city of Dubai, causing walls and windows to shake in neighborhoods as far as 25 kilometers (15 miles) away from the port. Panicked residents filmed from their high-rises

as a fiery ball illuminated the night sky. The blast was powerful enough to be seen from space by satellite.

There were no immediate reports of casualties at the port, which is also the busiest port of call for American warships outside the U.S.

Some 2 1/2 hours after the blast, Dubai's civil defense teams said they had brought the fire under control and started the "cooling process." Authorities posted footage on social media of firefighters dousing giant shipping containers. The glow of the blaze remained visible in the background as civil defense crews worked to contain the fire.

The extent of damage caused to the sprawling port and surrounding cargo was not immediately clear.

Footage shared on social media of the aftermath showed charred containers, ashes and littered debris.

The sheer force and visibility of the explosion suggested the presence of a highly combustible substance. A Dubai authorities told the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV that the crew had evacuated in time and that the fire appeared to have started in one of the containers holding "flammable material," without elaborating.

Seeking to downplay the explosion, Mona al-Marri, director general of Dubai Media Office, told Al-Arabiya the incident "could happen anywhere in the world" and that authorities were investigating the cause.

## Haiti in upheaval: President Moïse assassinated at home

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**—A squad of gunmen assassinated Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and wounded his wife in an overnight raid on their home Wednesday, with police killing four

**Moïse**



"We need every single one to move the country forward," Joseph said. He alluded to enemies of the president, describing him as "a man of courage" who had opposed "some oligarchs in the country, and we believe those things are not without consequences."

Despite Joseph's assurances that order would prevail, there was confusion about who should take control and widespread anxiety among Haitians. Authorities declared a "state of siege" in the country and closed the international airport.

The normally bustling streets of the capital, Port-au-Prince, were empty Wednesday. Sporadic gunshots were heard in the distance, public transportation was scarce, and some people searched for food and water.

Bocchit Edmond, the Haitian ambassador to the United States, said the attack on the 53-year-old Moïse "was carried out by foreign mercenaries and professional killers—well-orchestrated," and that they were masquerading as agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The DEA has an office in the Haitian capital to assist the government in counternarcotics programs, according to the U.S. Embassy.

Joseph said the heavily armed gunmen spoke Spanish or English, but gave no further details. Moïse's wife, Martine, was in stable but critical condition and was being moved to Miami for treatment, Edmond said in Washington.

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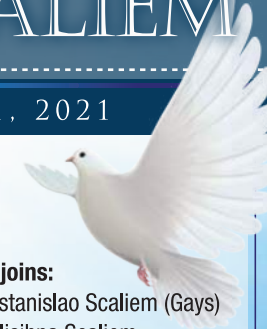
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*In Loving Memory Of*

# †MACARIO E. SCALIEM

SEPTEMBER 30, 1970 – JULY 01, 2021

**In his new life, he now joins:**

**Father:** †Estanislao Scaliem (Gays)

**Reared Parents:** †Alisihna Scaliem  
†Iksahle and †Dora Charley

**Parents In Law:** †Desiwo and †Milde Isaac

**Sister:** †Flora Scaliem

**Brother:** †Fernando Scaliem

**Reared Sisters:** †Nora C. Capelle  
†Asihna C. Siliang

**Reared Brothers:** †Keister Charley,  
†Charley Aiseam

**Brothers In Law:** †Jose M. Cabrera,  
†Osaky Keller  
†Johnny Isaac  
†Christopher Scaliem

**Nephew:**

**His Memories Will Live in the Hearts of:**

**Wife:** Jane I. Scaliem

**Children:** MacGarry Jr. (Zachary Jay),  
Jennie / Julian Jr., Michael  
Mariana Scaliem

**Mother:**

**Siblings and In-Laws:** Nora Scaliem and Daughter, †Flora Scaliem and Family, Margarita / †Jose Cabrera and Family, Steve Scaliem and Daughter, †Fernando / Mayleen Scaliem and Family, Marine Scaliem and Family, Mildred / Sakies Keller and Family, Rosally / †Johnny Isaac and Family, Leon / Leilani Scaliem and Family, Christina Elnei and Son, Lihda Scaliem, Stanley / Linda Scaliem and Family

**Reared Siblings and In-Laws:** †Charley / Piuper Aiseam and Family, †Nora C. Capelle and Family, †Asihna / Vincent Siliang and Family, Ansilyn / Dakes Eliam, Stanley Charley

He will be greatly missed by numerous Uncles, Aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends.

Please join us in prayer Friday and Saturday at 7pm at the residence of Margarita S. Cabrera in Koblerville.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, July 12, 2021. His remains will be escorted at 7:00 A.M. from CHCC Morgue to UCCPS, United Church of Christ Pohnpei Saipan at Kannat Tabla. Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 A.M. followed by interment services at Tanapag Cemetery at 1:00 P.M.

*Thank you*  
*Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
*Kalangan*

**Jane I. / Mariana E. Scaliem,  
Children and the whole family**

# Off The Wall

## Man reunites with puppy after bear attack in Alaska

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** (AP)—A Montana man was reunited with his 14-week-old border collie two days after the dog disappeared following a bear attack on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

Jason Umbriaco was hospitalized after the brown bear with two cubs bit him twice Sunday, Alaska's News Source reported.

"It was just a shock. I couldn't believe it," Umbriaco said after being reunited with Buckley. "I had kind of given up hope, and I was sort of making preparations inside to just move forward without him, and now it's like I'm gonna have those times back of just joy, and peace."

The attack happened in the

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) south of Anchorage, while he and Buckley were hiking.

Umbriaco said the bear moved on him so fast, he didn't have time to pull out his bear spray. He said the bear covered about 50 feet (15 meters) "in an instant. So then I held my arms up in sort of a defensive position and then she bit me on the forearm kind of up close to my elbow."

When the bear let go, he panicked and jumped into the adjacent Kenai River.

"In almost any other circumstance and in probably this circumstance, it was a terrible option, but that was the one I had," he said. "And then she reaches down and then

bites me on the shoulder."

The bear retreated after the second bite and was last seen walking up a hill with her cubs.

Given that reprieve, Umbriaco walked back to his truck to call for help.

"I was concerned that if I don't walk out right now, I don't know if I'll be able to," Umbriaco said. "After the conflict, I was calling and calling for Buckley, and apparently he had just run off, you know. He was just terrified and had taken off."

Umbriaco was taken to a hospital in Soldotna for his injuries, where employee Bonnie Nichols heard about his lost dog from a hospital chaplain. Both visited Umbriaco in his room.

## Colby eyed as official Wisconsin cheese

**MADISON, Wis.** (AP)—In cheese-obsessed Wisconsin, which proudly touts itself as America's Dairyland, the dairy cow is the official domestic animal, milk is the official state beverage and cheese is the official dairy product.

But believe it or not, in a state that produces more cheese than any other at 3.4 billion pounds (1.5 billion kilograms) each year, there is no official state cheese.

A bipartisan bill heard by a state Assembly committee on Wednesday would change that.

The measure makes colby, which was created in Wisconsin more than 100 years ago, the official cheese. Colby may be as "gouda" choice as any, but the choice threatens to turn fans of cheddar, swiss, provolone and other varieties red, or perhaps blue, in the face with rage.

Colby also holds a special place in Wisconsin cheese history. It was created in the central Wisconsin city of, you guessed it, Colby in 1885. Joseph Steinwand created the cheese and named it



(JOHN HART/WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL VIA AP, FILE)

In this March 5, 2020 file photo, visitors to the Cheese Champion event of the World Championship Cheese Contest sample offerings from an array of international producers during the gathering at Monona Terrace in Madison, Wis. A bill being heard by a state Assembly committee would make colby, which was created in Wisconsin more than 100 years ago, the official state cheese.

after the township where his father built northern Clark County's first cheese factory, according to a state historical marker in the city located about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Wausau.

Colby isn't the most produced cheese in Wisconsin. Mozzarella is tops, followed by cheddar and some Ital-

ian varieties, according to the USDA. Still, more than 45 million pounds (20 million kilograms) of colby is produced at Wisconsin's 150 cheese plants each year.

For the unfamiliar, colby is generally thought of as a milder form of cheddar but has more texture and tastes sweeter.

## Man in toilet bitten by escaped python

**BERLIN** (AP)—A man in Austria was bitten by a 1.6-meter (5 1/4-foot) python during an early-morning visit to the toilet at his home on Monday, police said.

The reptile, which apparently escaped from a neighbor's apartment and may have slithered through the drains, was cleaned and handed back to its owner.

The 65-year-old victim "felt a 'nip' in the genital area"

shortly after sitting on the toilet at home in Graz just after 6 a.m., according to a statement from police in Styria province. He then looked into the toilet and discovered the albino reticulated python.

The snake apparently had escaped unnoticed from the apartment of the man's 24-year-old neighbor. It wasn't immediately possible to figure out how it escaped and how it got into the toilet, but police

said it may have made its way through the drains.

A reptile expert was called to retrieve the snake, which was returned to his owner. Police said the younger man kept 11 non-venomous constrictor snakes and a gecko in his apartment, in terrariums and drawers. He faces an investigation on suspicion of causing bodily harm by negligence.

The victim sustained only minor injuries, police said.

# Science & Technology

## Chinese astronauts make first spacewalk outside new station

**BEIJING** (AP)—Two astronauts on Sunday made the first spacewalk outside China's new orbital station to set up cameras and other equipment using a 15-meter-long (50-foot-long) robotic arm.

Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo were shown by state TV climbing out of the airlock as Earth rolled past below them. The third crew member, commander Nie Haisheng, stayed inside.

Liu and Tang spent nearly seven hours outside the station, the Chinese space agency said.

The astronauts arrived June 17 for a three-month mission aboard China's third orbital station, part of an ambitious space program that landed a robot rover on Mars in May. Their mission comes as the ruling Communist Party celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The station's first module,



This photo released by Xinhua News Agency shows a screen at Beijing Aerospace Control Center showing astronaut Liu Boming stepping out of core module of the China's new space station in space on Sunday, July 4, 2021. JIN LIWANG/XINHUA VIA AP

Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, was launched April 29. That was followed by an automated spacecraft with food and fuel. Liu, Nie and Tang arrived June 17 aboard a Shenzhou capsule.

On Sunday, Liu attached his feet to a platform at the end of a remote-controlled arm that held him in place while he used an electric drill and other tools to install

equipment.

China's space agency plans a total of 11 launches through the end of next year to add two more modules to the 70-ton station.

Liu is a veteran of the Shenzhou 7 mission in 2008, during which Zhai Zhigang made China's first space walk. Nie is on his third trip into space while Tang is making his first. All are military pilots.

## TECH Q&A: How to move music among various Apple devices

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE

For a user whose hard drive conked out, the solutions for music portability are plentiful but a bit complicated.

**Q: I used my PC to copy 2,500 songs from CDs, then transferred the songs to an iPod Touch. But now the PC doesn't work, so I can't transfer the same songs to my iPhone or iPad. Is there a way to transfer the songs directly from the iPod Touch to the iPhone or iPad without a computer?**

**A:** Music transfers between an iPod Touch and an iPhone or iPad generally require a computer as an intermediary (the computer can make the transfer using Apple's iTunes program, or a Mac or PC alternative such as the EaseUS MobiMover (see [tinyurl.com/j75u3s34](http://tinyurl.com/j75u3s34)) or AnyTrans (see [tinyurl.com/uvr9wbvz](http://tinyurl.com/uvr9wbvz)). If you subscribe to Apple's iCloud backup service, you could transfer music to your other devices via an account with a sufficient storage level. For 50 gigabytes of data, iCloud costs 99 cents a month.

While Apple's AirDrop program would seem to be a workaround—it provides direct wireless data transfers between Apple devices—it won't transfer a song from one device to another. In-

stead, it sends a link to the song on Apple Music, a subscription music service.

One option is to see if your PC's hard drive can be salvaged. A repair shop may be able to copy the 2,500 songs from the old PC's hard drive and transfer them to a new computer. You can then use the new PC to load the music onto your iPhone or iPad.

Alternatively, you could get a music subscription app for the iPhone or iPad (such as Apple Music or Spotify) and listen to songs that way (for a list of subscription services, see [tinyurl.com/64a5cflk3](http://tinyurl.com/64a5cflk3)).

**Q: My wife received an Amazon Fire HD 10 tablet computer as a gift. What kind of antivirus software would you recommend using on it?**

**A:** You can get security software for the Fire HD tablet in the Amazon Appstore (see [tinyurl.com/5366hacr](http://tinyurl.com/5366hacr)), but there's disagreement about whether you need it.

For those who play by the rules, some experts say that the Fire tablet is safe without security software. But playing by the rules means that you use apps only from the Amazon Appstore and are careful what you give apps permission to do (see [tinyurl.com/dsu696k3](http://tinyurl.com/dsu696k3)).

Other experts say that, even if you play by the rules,

any device that accesses the internet might need security software. A Fire tablet itself might not be hurt by malware, they say, but it might carry malware back to your home Wi-Fi network (see [tinyurl.com/wkatsxf8](http://tinyurl.com/wkatsxf8)).

For those who don't play by the rules, security software is a must. Some people change settings on the Fire HD so it can download apps from anywhere, not just the Amazon Appstore (see [tinyurl.com/mjjj57s9](http://tinyurl.com/mjjj57s9)). That increases the number of available apps, but also increases risk.

**Q: We like our multiroom Sonos Wi-Fi speakers until we use the "line-in" port to plug in devices such as tape decks or CD players. Then the sound cuts out. What can we do?**

**A:** To avoid losing sound, make some speaker changes (see [tinyurl.com/47utmx7k](http://tinyurl.com/47utmx7k)). For example, when playing "line-in" audio to several rooms, coordinate the speakers by using the settings for "audio compression" (reduces the amount of data) and "audio delay" (a time-delay.) You can fix signal interference by changing the Wi-Fi channel or relocating speakers.

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.

# Life & Style

## With fluent French, Jodie Foster at home again in Cannes

**CANNES, France (AP)**—"I got one thing to say before I sit down," said Spike Lee during the Cannes Film Festival opening ceremony. "I wish I could speak French like Jodie Foster!"

In the first two days of Cannes, one thing everyone can agree on is that Jodie Foster really speaks terrific French. On Tuesday, Foster was awarded an honorary Palme d'Or for lifetime achievement. The award was presented to her by Lee

and South Korean director Bong Joon Ho.

Foster, who walked the red carpet with her wife, Alexandra Hedison, regaled the festival audience with her fluent French.

"During this year of transition, the cinema has been my lifeline," said Foster.

If Foster, 58, has seemed at home in Cannes, it could be because her experience at the festival spans 45 years. Foster first came to Cannes with "Taxi Driver" in 1976.

She was just 13 at the time, a sunny, freckled face in the middle of a media storm over the violence in Martin Scorsese's film.

"Taxi Driver" still won the Palme d'Or, even though the then-jury president, playwright Tennessee Williams, condemned the film. "Watching violence on the screen is a brutalizing experience for the spectator," said Williams. "Films should not take a voluptuous pleasure in spilling blood and lingering on terrible

cruelties as though one were at a Roman circus."

Black-and-white photos from the time capture Foster smiling next to Robert De Niro and Scorsese. Even then, Foster waved off translators

and answered questions at the film's press conference in French. (Foster attended a French prep school in Los Angeles and her family lived for a time in France. She has made films in French and done some

French dubs, herself.)

"Who would have thought that the little Iris from 'Taxi Driver' would have become the woman you have become?" said Pedro Almodovar during the ceremony.



Jodie Foster, left, and Alexandra Hedison pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Annette' and the opening ceremony of the 74th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

VIANNEY LE CAER/INVISION/AP

## Michael Avenatti faces sentencing in Nike extortion scheme

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Michael Avenatti, the brash California lawyer who publicly sparred with then-President Donald Trump before criminal fraud charges on two coasts disrupted his rapid ascent to fame, faces sentencing in one of those cases Thursday.

Over a year after a jury concluded Avenatti tried to extort millions of dollars from Nike by threatening the company with bad publicity, U.S. District Judge Paul G. Gardephe will sentence him



Avenatti

in Manhattan. Avenatti was convicted on charges that he tried to extort up to \$25 million from the Beaverton, Oregon-based sportswear giant as he represented a Los Angeles youth basketball league

organizer upset Nike had ended its league sponsorship.

Regardless of the outcome, Avenatti faces trials in Los Angeles later this year on fraud charges and a separate trial next year in Manhattan, where he is charged with cheating his former client—the porn star Stormy Daniels—of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Avenatti, 50, represented Daniels in 2018 in lawsuits against Trump, appearing often on cable news programs to disparage the Republican as he explored running

for president against Trump in 2020, boasting he'd "have no problem raising money." Daniels said a decade-earlier tryst with Trump led her to be paid \$130,000 by Trump's personal lawyer in 2016 to

stay silent. Trump denied the affair.

Talk of those aspirations evaporated when prosecutors in Los Angeles and New York charged him with fraud in March 2019. Prosecutors in Los Angeles said he was enjoying a \$200,000-a-month lifestyle while cheating clients of millions of dollars and the Internal Revenue Service of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Charges alleging he cheated Daniels of proceeds from a book deal followed weeks later. Avenatti pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Prosecutors have requested a "very substantial" sentence, citing the U.S. Probation Department's recommendation of an eight-year prison term. Avenatti's lawyers said six months in prison and a year of home detention was enough punishment.

## Countercultural filmmaker Robert Downey Sr. dies at 85

**(AP)**—Robert Downey Sr., the accomplished countercultural filmmaker, actor and father of superstar Robert Downey Jr., has died. He was 85.

Downey Jr. wrote on Instagram that his father died late Tuesday in his sleep at home in New York. He had Parkinson's disease for more than five years.

"He was a true maverick filmmaker, and remained remarkably optimistic throughout," Downey Jr. wrote. "According to my stepmom's calculations, they were happily married for just over 2000 years."

Downey was a Hollywood journeyman who made a name for himself with radi-

cal, anti-establishment films, like the low-budget Madison Avenue advertising industry satire "Putney Swope" and the Western Jesus parable "Greaser's Palace" starring Allan Arbus. His son, Robert Downey Jr., daughter Allyson Downey and first wife Elsie Downey also appeared in "Greaser's Palace."

## Red flags are flying in daughter's marriage

**DEAR ABBY:** I am afraid for my daughter. She has been married less than a year to a very controlling man. He doesn't ASK her to do anything, he DEMANDS that she do what he wants. She cannot go out to eat or to a movie or anyplace like that unless he is with her. She works a 40-hour-a-week job, and in addition she must do all the work inside the house plus mow the lawn while he plays games on his computer. Don't you have a list of things to look for to tell someone when it is time to get out while the getting is good?

VERY WORRIED MOTHER

**DEAR MOTHER:** I certainly do, and you have a right to be worried. It has been a while since I shared this important information about abusive behaviors. Read on:

(1) **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong, claiming, "I've never felt loved like this by anyone." An abuser pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly; prevents you from going to work because "you might meet someone"; checks the mileage on your car.

(3) **CONTROLLING:** If you are late, interrogates you intensively about whom you talked to and where you were; keeps all the money; insists you ask permission to go anywhere or do anything.

(4) **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate and meet his or her every need.

(5) **ISOLATION:** Tries to isolate you from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble." The abuser may deprive you of a phone or car, or try to prevent you from holding a job.

(6) **BLAMES OTHERS FOR PROBLEMS OR MISTAKES:** It's always someone else's fault if something goes wrong.

(7) **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You make me angry" instead of "I am angry," or says, "You're hurting me by not doing what I tell you."

(8) **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when he or she is really mad. Rants about the injustice of things that are just a part of life.

(9) **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally. Also may expect children to do things that are far beyond their ability (whips a 3-year-old for wetting a diaper) or may tease them until they cry. Sixty-five percent of abusers who beat their partners will also abuse children.

(10) **"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will during sex; finds the idea of rape exciting.

(11) **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things; degrades, curses, calls you ugly names. This may also involve sleep deprivation or waking you with relentless verbal abuse.

(12) **RIGID EXPECTATIONS:** Demands that you serve,

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



obey and remain at home.

(13) **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

(14) **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past, but says the person "made" him (or her) do it.

(15) **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, "I'll break your neck" or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them with, "Everybody talks that way," or "I didn't really mean it."

Readers, ANYONE at risk of spousal or partner abuse should contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233 or [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

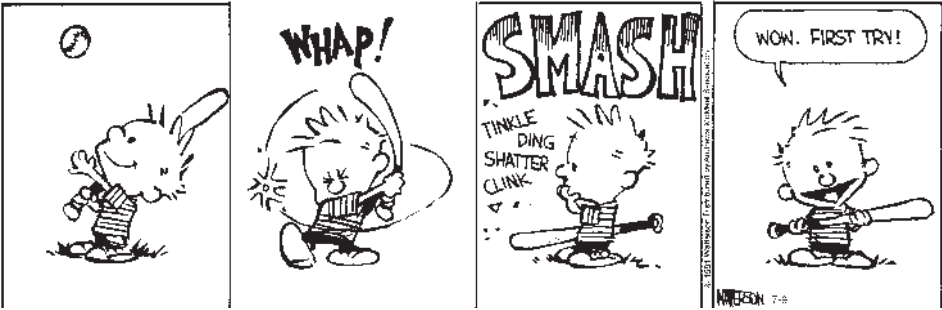
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

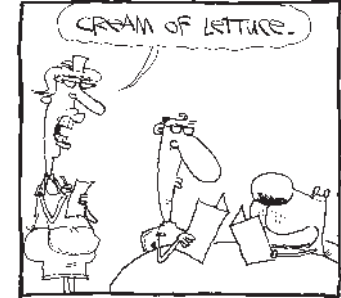
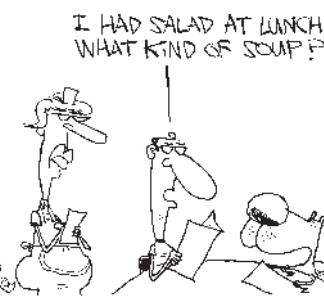


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Mature 4 Hit the runway 8 Stink 12 Wet dirt 13 Both (Pref.) 14 Mata — 15 Insulin producer 17 Domed tent 18 Frightens 19 Deli choice 21 Asner and Harris 22 Cardin of fashion 26 "Midnight Cowboy" role 29 Young fellow 30 Fine, at NASA 31 LAX guesses 32 Brooch 33 ilk 34 Hostel 35 La —, Bolivia 36 Plays 37 Pooch's play area in a park

39 Day light? 40 Crumb carrier 41 Narcotic 45 Deeds 48 Time on earth 50 Gridlock sound 51 Mideast ruler 52 Ex-quarter-back 53 Electronics giant 54 Bearded beast 55 Deleted

2 Avocado dip, for short 3 — St. Vincent Millay 4 Rio Grande city 5 Make — of (bungle) 6 Cagers' gp. 7 Kitchen basin 8 Limerick feature 9 Water (Fr.) 10 Blunder 11 DIY buy 16 Salad green 20 Succor

23 Light beams 24 Lariat 25 Stretches (out) 26 Tara of "Shark-nado" 27 — time (never) 28 Tart flavor 29 Singer Phair 32 One of a pair of jeans 33 North African capital 35 Bit of wit 36 Media mogul 38 Grating 39 Director Coppola 42 Pinnacle 43 Yarn 44 Oklahoma city 45 Six-pack muscles 46 Corp. boss 47 Toe count 49 "As I see it," to a texter

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiely Williams, 35; Fred Savage, 45; Jack White, 46; Tom Hanks, 65.

Happy Birthday: Communication will be your passage to new beginnings. Expand your mind; travel mentally, emotionally and physically while searching for personal enlightenment and the truth. Consider what makes you happy, and find a way to satisfy your needs. Set high standards, and make the adjustments that will bring you peace of mind. Take control, ease stress and live life your way. Your numbers are 5, 17, 24, 26, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't poke someone who is upset. Go about your business, and get involved in activities that help you dodge trouble. A kind gesture or word will help ease any tension that mounts throughout the day. Choose love over discord.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. Be aware of other people's feelings, and take a moment to comfort someone who needs help or reassurance. An opportunity will come your way through a colleague or an old friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Choose your words carefully. Someone will misinterpret you if you aren't clear. Let your actions verify your comments. You won't please everyone, but you will avoid a costly error. Don't lose sight of your long-term goal. Be passionate about your accomplishments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will surface, leaving it up to you to make intelligent decisions. Get the low-

down before you make a move, and you'll avoid making a mistake based on invalid information. Change begins with you. Evaluate, reflect and take care of business.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pay attention and give praise to show appreciation. A kind gesture will ease tension and encourage others to share information with you. You are better off not making a change unnecessarily. Protect your job, health and meaningful relationships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have difficulty choosing between what you want and what you are supposed to do. Talk to someone you have helped in the past, and you'll receive the help you need so you can do something that brings you joy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen to grievances, and be patient with others. The less fuss, the more you'll achieve. Channel your energy into something that offers incentives and helps you gain the experience required to pursue something that excites you. New beginnings look promising.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A financial saving is possible if you make environmental upgrades to your home or you cut your overhead by eliminating something you no longer use or need. Look for alternative lifestyles that spark your interest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do something physical, and you'll feel good about yourself. A healthy lifestyle will help you dump bad habits and attract people striving to do their best. Love is favored, and romance

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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will bring you closer to someone special.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make positive changes at home, and it will bring you closer to the people you care about most. A meaningful relationship will reach new levels if you discuss your intentions and put your plans in motion. A joint venture looks promising.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your distance from those known to take unnecessary health risks. Protect yourself and loved ones from precarious situations. Put in place a plan that offers a good time with safety precautions. Romance is encouraged.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll gain insight into what others want. Do what you can to accommodate, but make sure you get what you want in return. Share your feelings, and find out where you stand. A positive change is likely if you handle matters peacefully.

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, passionate and curious. You are determined and opportunistic.

: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. : You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. : Focus and you'll reach your goals. : Aim high; start new projects. : Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/09

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2 7 8 3 4 6 5 9 1  
3 6 9 5 7 1 4 2 8  
1 5 4 8 9 2 7 3 6  
4 9 1 2 3 7 6 8 5  
6 8 7 9 1 5 3 4 2  
5 3 2 6 8 4 9 1 7  
7 4 6 1 2 3 8 5 9  
9 1 5 4 6 8 2 7 3  
8 2 3 7 5 9 1 6 4

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WINDING ROADS AND PATHS Solution: 10 letters

T G D C O B B L E D S W E I V  
R R R H P E P O L S A T L A S  
O E A I I H M E L E G A S U P  
L A H N R A S E S U N R O A D  
L T T A S M K G O E U M S A R  
S O T E I F E R D I Y S O L I  
T C O R D R A O U N D R A P V  
I E G A F R O G S F E D C S E  
G A Z O J I A H A T U R I N I  
E N G A V S A V A R E D R A N  
N G P L E L Y G A Z A E A S O  
Y A E V S L G E I L A S P E R  
N T R E L I S D N E B K A D W  
S U M A B S E D A D S H A N A  
C A R A C O L E S N R U T A Y

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Alps, Andes, Arica, Atlas, Bends, Big Gate Road, Caracoles, China, Cobbled, Curves, Dades, Denali, Drive, Foggy, Furka, Gorge, Gotthard, Great Ocean, Grimsel, Halsema, Hana, India, Irohazaka, Japan, Lavaret, Lemhi, Norway, Pass, Rally, Sani, Slope, Steep, Stelvio, Sun Road, Transfagarasan, Trollstigen, Turini, Turns, Usage, Views, Yungas, Zoji

Yesterday's Answer: Stick  
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand!  
Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-842-6486.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# Ohtani's 32nd home run helps Angels beat Red Sox, 5-4



**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—**

Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 32nd homer, a season high by a Japanese player in the major leagues, helping the Los Angeles Angels beat the Boston Red Sox 5-4 on Wednesday.

Fellow All-Star Jared Walsh homered twice for the Angels, who won for the sixth time in seven games and took two of three from the AL-leading Red Sox.

Ohtani topped Hideki Matsui's total with the 2004 Yankees by hitting a 433-foot shot to right off Eduardo Rodriguez (6-5), putting the Angels ahead to stay in the fifth inning. The two-way star has 15 homers in his past 20 games.

Andrew Heaney (5-6) pitched six-hit ball into the sixth, and Raisel Iglesias struck out the side in the ninth for his 18th save.



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani reacts after being hit by a foul ball during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox Wednesday, July 7, 2021, in Anaheim, Calif.

## Rays 4, Indians 0 Rays 8, Indians 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., five Tampa Bay pitchers combined for seven hitless innings to finish a doubleheader sweep.

Collin McHugh (two perfect innings), Josh Fleming (7-4 after allowing one walk in 2 2/3 innings), Diego Castillo (one out), Matt Wisler (one inning) and Pete Fairbanks (one inning) combined in a game that will not go into the official list of no-hitters because shortened to seven innings under pandemic rules.

Taylor Walls put the Rays up 2-0 in Game 2 on two-out RBI singles off Sam Hentges (1-4) in the second and fourth.

Kevin Kiermaier homered and drove in a career-high five runs, Vidal Brujan had an RBI single in his major league debut, and the Rays win the opener 8-1. Cleveland has lost nine in a row.

Michael Wacha (2-2) allowed one run, four hits and struck out six in six innings. J.C. Mejia (1-4) was the loser.

## Mets 4, Brewers 3 Brewers 5, Mets 0

In New York, Jacob deGrom allowed home runs to Luis Urias on his fourth pitch and another to Jace Peterson in the fifth. His ERA up to 1.08, deGrom said he will skip the All-Star Game.

DeGrom allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings with 10 strikeouts and no walks—his seventh start with double-digit strikeouts this season.

Pinch-hitter José Peraza tied the score with a home run in the seventh off Josh Hader, who had converted 24 consecutive save chances.

Edwin Díaz (3-2) forced in a run by hitting Christian Yelich with a pitch in the eighth, and

Jeff McNeil hit a two-run single with no outs in the bottom half off Brent Suter (8-4).

Milwaukee won the second game behind two-run homers by Manny Pina and Urias along with Willy Adames' solo shot.

Jake Cousins (1-0) got his first big league win by pitching a (perfect fifth in relief of starter Brett Anderson, who threw four innings. Milwaukee allowed three hits. Robert Stock (0-2) gave up two runs in four innings.

## Cubs 8, Phillies 3

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo, Joc Pederson and Nico Hoerner each had two hits and an RBI to help Chicago snap an 11-game losing streak with a win over Philadelphia.

The Cubs raced to an early five-run lead off Wheeler and then added on to halt their skid.

Patrick Wisdom added a two-run double for Chicago. Alec Mills (4-2) allowed three runs on five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Andrew McCutchen had a two-run homer for Philadelphia. Wheeler (6-5) yielded seven runs, four earned, on eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

## Braves 14, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Abraham Almonte had a go-ahead, two-run single off Kyle Crick (1-1) in a five-run sixth inning and added a two-run home run as Atlanta avoided a series sweep.

Drew Smyly (7-3) overcame giving up a three-run home run to Jacob Stallings in the first inning to win his fifth straight start. Smyly labored through five innings, allowing nine hits and three walks while

striking out four.

## Yankees 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Aaron Judge capped New York's early offensive outburst against Seattle All-Star Yusei Kikuchi with his 20th home run of the season, and the Yankees held on for the win.

For the second straight game, the Yankees scored a flurry of runs in the first two innings. This time they had to withstand Seattle's late rally.

Judge's two-run homer was clubbed into the second deck of the left field seats and gave New York a 5-1 lead. Luke Voit had a two-out RBI single and Gleyber Torres followed with a two-run single as the Yankees scored three in the first inning for the second straight game.

Kikuchi (6-4) allowed a season-high five runs and eight hits.

Luis Cessa (2-1) threw 3 1/3 solid innings. He struck out five, but also gave up Tom Murphy's three-run homer in the sixth inning. Chad Green pitched the ninth for his third save.

## Nationals 15, Padres 5

In San Diego, All-Star Juan Soto warmed up for the Home Run Derby by hitting a three-run shot in the first inning and Washington pounded Chris Paddack and San Diego.

Paddack (4-6) allowed nine runs, eight earned, and nine hits on 75 pitches in two-plus innings. He struck out two and walked one.

Josh Bell and Starlin Castro hit consecutive two-run singles for Washington. Josh Harrison had an RBI single

and two-run double, finishing with three hits and three RBIs.

Corbin (6-7) held the Padres to two runs and seven hits in six innings, with three strikeouts and two walks.

Manny Machado hit an RBI single, Eric Hosmer hit his seventh homer and Trent Grisham added a two-run blast for the Padres.

## Tigers 5, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, pinch-hitter Miguel Cabrera hit a go-ahead infield single off the glove of reliever Joely Rodriguez in the seventh inning, overcoming two homers by Joey Gallo off Casey Mize.

Kyle Funkhouser (3-0) worked two scoreless innings. Gregory Soto, Detroit's only All-Star pick, got six outs for his seventh save.

Kyle Gibson (6-1) struck out seven but allowed eight hits and five runs over 6 1/3 innings. His ERA jumped from an AL-best 1.98 to 2.29.

## White Sox 6, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Lance Lynn (9-3) allowed one run over six innings in his first start since earning a spot on the AL All-Star team and took over the AL ERA lead at 1.99.

Before the game, the White Sox cut outfielder Adam Eaton.

Tim Anderson had four hits and Leury Garcia hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the second off Michael Pineda (3-5), then added a run-scoring triple and a single.

Chicago is 10-2 against Minnesota this season, outscoring the Twins 91-47.

## Reds 5, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Sonny

Gray (2-4) gave up two runs and seven hits over seven innings, and Jonathan India hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh off Scott Barlow (2-3).

Art Warren stranded the bases loaded in the eighth by retiring Hunter Dozier on an inning-ending flyout, and Heath Hembree pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

## Blue Jays 10, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had three hits and drove in two runs to increase his major league-leading RBI total to 73, Bo Bichette homered and Toronto breezed past Baltimore.

Guerrero hit RBI singles in the first and fourth innings to help Toronto build a 6-0 lead. He also singled in third inning and finished 3 for 4. Bichette drove in three runs and had three hits, including a two-run drive into the left-field seats.

Hyun Jin Ryu (8-5) gave up five hits and one run in five innings with two walks and seven strikeouts.

Baltimore starter Matt Harvey (3-10) was tagged for six runs and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

## Marlins 9, Dodgers 6

In Miami, Jesús Aguilar hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the ninth inning and Miami beat Los Angeles for the third straight game.

Aguilar drove the sinker from Dodgers reliever Edwin Uceta (0-3) over the wall in left for his 14th homer of the season and first at home.

Zack McKinstry hit a one-out solo homer in the ninth against Miami reliever Anthony Bender (1-0) to tie it at 6-all.

Garrett Cooper had his first career multi-homer game for Miami with solo shots in the first and sixth.

Justin Turner hit a three-run homer and A.J. Pollock and Mookie Betts had solo shots.

## Astros 4, Athletics 3

In Houston, Jose Altuve hit a three-run homer and Kyle Tucker's tiebreaking solo shot in the seventh inning lifted Houston over Oakland. The victory was the Astros' sixth straight.

There was one out in the seventh when Tucker connected off Sean Manaea (6-6) on his home run to right-center to put Houston on top.

Blake Taylor (2-2) wriggled out of a jam in a scoreless seventh for the win. Ryan Pressly pitched a perfect ninth to collect his 16th save.

Matt Olson and Elvis Andrus had solo homers for the Athletics, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

## Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 4

In Phoenix, Eduardo Escobar had a three-run homer among his three hits and Arizona beat Colorado.

The Diamondbacks, owners of the worst record in the majors at 25-63, won consecutive games for the first time since May 10-11, when they beat the Miami Marlins in back-to-back games.

Escobar's team-leading 19th homer broke open a 3-1 game in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Reliever Matt Peacock (3-6) got the win for Arizona, giving up one run in three innings. Closer Joakim Soria pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save.

Colorado starter Antonio Senzatela (2-8) took the loss. Ryan McMahon had an RBI double, and C.J. Cron added an RBI single for the Rockies.

## Giants 5, Cardinals 2

In San Francisco, Alex Wood pitched seven strong innings of three-hit ball, and San Francisco defeated St. Louis.

Darin Ruf homered for San Francisco. Mike Yastrzemski and Donovan Solano doubled in runs as the Giants avoided a three-game sweep.

Dylan Carson had two hits for St. Louis.

Wood (8-3) set down 19 of 22 after allowing Nolan Arenado's two-out RBI double in the first. He had six strikeouts and two walks and won for the first time in four career starts against the Cardinals. Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

St. Louis starter Johan Oviedo (0-5) couldn't overcome a shaky start. He allowed two runs and three hits in four innings.

# IOC's Bach arrives in Tokyo; greeted by state of emergency

**TOKYO (AP)**—IOC President Thomas Bach arrived in Tokyo on Thursday just as a ban on spectators at the Tokyo Olympics is likely after Japan Prime Minister Yoshihde Suga announced a state of emergency because of rising coronavirus infections in the capital.

Suga said the state of emergency would go in effect on Monday and last through Aug. 22. This means the Olympics, opening on July 23 and running through Aug. 8, will be held entirely under emergency measures.

Suga said the state of emergency was needed to “prevent the resurgence of the future spread on cases across the country.”

Bach largely avoided cameras at Tokyo’s Haneda Airport and, on a rainy afternoon, went to the International Olympic Committee’s games headquarters in Tokyo, a five-star hotel in the center of the city. He is reported to need to self-isolate for three days.

Bach’s arrival comes just two weeks before the postponed Tokyo Games are to open. The IOC and local organizers are attempting to hold the games during a pandemic despite opposition from the Japanese public and medical community.

The main focus of the emergency is a request for bars, restaurants and karaoke parlors serving alcohol to close. A ban on serving alcohol is a key step to tone down Olympic-related festivities and keep people from drinking and partying. Tokyo residents are expected to face stay-home requests and watch the games on TV from home.



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach waves from the vehicle to media upon his arrival Thursday, July 8, 2021, in Tokyo.

COVID-19 advisory panel met Wednesday and expressed concerns about the ongoing resurgence of the infections.

“Two-thirds of the infections in the capital region are from Tokyo, and our concern is the spread of the infections to neighboring areas,” said Ryuji Wakita, director-general of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.

The Olympics are pushing ahead against most medical advice, partially because the postponement stalled the IOC’s income flow. It gets almost 75% of its income from selling broadcast rights, and estimates suggest it would lose \$3 billion to \$4 billion if the Olympics were canceled.

About 11,000 Olympians and 4,400 Paralympians are expected to enter Japan, with tens of thousands of officials, judges, administrators, sponsors, broadcasters, and media also entering. The IOC says more than 80% of resident of the Olympic Village will be vaccinated.

Nationwide, Japan has had about 810,000 cases and nearly 14,900 deaths. Only 15% of Japanese are fully vaccinated, still low compared with 47.4% in the United States and almost 50% in Britain.

“How to stop people enjoying the Olympics from going out for drinks is a main issue,” Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said.

The present state of emergency ends Sunday. Tokyo reported 920 new cases on Wednesday, up from 714 a week earlier. It was the 18th straight day of week-on-week increases, and was the highest total since 1,010 were reported on May 13.

Fans from abroad were months ago banned from at-

tending the Olympics. But just two weeks ago, organizers and the IOC decided to allow venues to be filled to 50% of capacity but crowds not to exceed 10,000. The state-of-emergency will force them to change plans again with a decision probably coming later on Thursday.

The soaring cases are likely to mean that venues will be without any spectators, although sponsors and others

may have access. The no-fan atmosphere could include the opening ceremony at the \$1.4 billion National Stadium.

The uptick in infections has also forced the Tokyo city government to pull the Olympic torch relay off capital streets, allowing it to run only on remote islands off the Tokyo coast. It’s unclear how the torch will enter the stadium for the opening ceremony.

“The infections are in their

expansion phase and everyone in this country must firmly understand the seriousness of it,” Dr. Shigeru Omi, a top government medical adviser, said.

He urged authorities to quickly take tough measures ahead of the Olympics, with summer vacations approaching.

Omi has repeatedly called for a ban on spectators, and has said it’s “abnormal” to hold the Olympics during a pandemic.

Separately, a government

**EASY**  
From Page 24

Mark Joseph Patubo was on target for TanHoldings, as he fired all but one of the team’s six goals. Anthony John Bergancia tallied the other goal

**MCDONALD'S**  
From Page 24

Each category will have purses of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place bringing the total monetary prize at stake to \$70,000.

Entrance fee is \$120 and all proceeds will go to Ronald McDonald House Charities. Babauta and the rest of the tournament committee said they are already anticipating to raise \$50,000 by locking in Diamond (\$10,000), Gold (\$5,000), Silver (\$2,500), and Bronze (\$1,500) sponsors.

“This is quite exciting as golf is one of the islands’ favorite fund-raisers and again avid golfers from Guam and

for TanHoldings.

**Kanoa 4, Matansa 1**

In the first game in the division, Kanoa outclassed Matansa.

Vicente Reyes and Markus Toves joined forces in Kanoa’s second win in as many games

Saipan are looking forward to this tournament,” said Babauta.

McDonald’s of Guam & Saipan president and CEO Joe C. Ayuyu said the Inaugural Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament is something he and his wife, Marcia, have been thinking about for a long time.

“We want to help to these unfortunate kids. We don’t have the medical facilities on Saipan so a lot of kids have these kinds of issues that require highly specialized doctors,” he said.

Established in 1987, the Ronald McDonald House Charities has helped over 38,000 families from the CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau,

after logging two goals apiece. Philip Megino registered the lone goal for Matansa, which absorbed back-to-back losses early into the competition.

**Sign up on for Dove women’s league**

and Hawaii. It’s not directly affiliated with McDonald’s Corp. or any of its restaurants and relies heavily on the support of the community to continue delivering services for those in need.

Marcia and Joe Jr. said they expect the tournament will be an exciting event and encouraged all local golfers and businesses to support the fundraiser.

McDonald’s of Guam & Saipan Marketing director Divina Evaristo said Ronald McDonald House’s purpose is to have children stay close to their families and get the care that they need. “Parents are needed to help the kids recover and have a feeling of wellbeing.”

In the past, she said the fast-food giant conducted several

Meanwhile, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will also hold the Dove Women’s Summer League 2021 this month.

Free registration is ongoing and NMIFA is extending the invitation to female players in the

promotions to help the non-profit organization like the time when a penny for every Happy Meal sold went to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Aside from helping Ronald McDonald House Charities, Joe Ayuyu said the fundraising golf tournament will also be a boon to the CNMI’s tourism industry that has been ravaged the past year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We want to get these people from Guam who have a lot of money to come here and spend their money on Saipan. I think it will be good for our hotels. It will be good for our car rental business and I think it will be good for the community. The idea is to have Guam golfers go to Saipan and stay

16 and above age group. The summer league will be played in three divisions—novice, intermediate, and competitive.

For more information or to register, call Mikky Vargas at the NMIFA office at 235-0173.

here a couple of days and play some golf and spend some money here.”

Babauta said, they expect between 15 and 20 players from Guam to sign up for the tournament and that’s on top of the sponsored golfers.

Joe Ayuyu added that while 100% of proceeds from this year’s event will go to Ronald McDonald House Charities, they’re already planning to split whatever is raised in 2022 to other non-profit organizations on Saipan and Guam.

For more information on the Inaugural Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament, call Babauta at 483-2563, Das Krishnan at 483-6405, or James Nelson at 483-4215.

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	51	34	.614	
Tampa Bay	44	41	.518	7
Toronto	44	40	.524	8
New York	44	41	.518	8½
Baltimore	28	58	.326	25
Central Division				
Chicago	51	35	.593	
Cleveland	42	42	.500	8
Detroit	40	47	.460	11½
Kansas City	36	50	.419	15
Minnesota	35	50	.412	15½
West Division				
Houston	54	33	.621	
Oakland	49	39	.557	5½
Seattle	45	42	.517	9
Los Angeles	44	42	.512	9½
Texas	34	53	.391	20
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	45	38	.542	
Washington	42	43	.494	4
Atlanta	42	44	.488	4½
Philadelphia	41	43	.488	4½
Miami	38	47	.447	8
Central Division				
Milwaukee	52	36	.591	
Cincinnati	45	41	.523	6
Chicago	43	44	.494	8½
St. Louis	43	45	.489	9
Pittsburgh	32	54	.372	19
West Division				
San Francisco	54	32	.628	
Los Angeles	53	34	.609	1½
San Diego	51	38	.573	4½
Colorado	37	50	.425	17½
Arizona	25	63	.284	30
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

# 60-70 boats expected for international fishing derby

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Fishermen's Association is looking at a bumper crop of participants for the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament set this weekend in the waters off the CNMI.

"We are expecting about 60 to 70 entries this year. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the fishermen both locally, Tinian, Rota, and especially Guam. With the guidance from the COVID-19 Task Force we are expecting 10-15 boats from Guam. There has been a tremendous amount of interest from off-island participants," said SFA president Tony Scragg.

Along with the return of off-island participants, Scragg also expects a large crowd to greet them at the Smiling

Cove Marina weighing station when they do come back from their pelagic foray.

"We also anticipate a good crowd at the marina. If our past mahi derby is any indication we will have a good crowd in attendance. I hope there is excitement within the community who enjoy this annual event," he said.

The two-day fishing tournament will start bright and early at 6am on July 10 and will conclude the next day, July 11, at 6pm. The awards banquet will be held on Monday, July 12, at Aqua Resort Club beginning 6pm.

Sponsors of the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament include Marpac Budweiser, Mobil Oil Marianas, TSL Foundation/TanHoldings, Triple J Enterprises, Pacifica Insurance Underwriter,



Inc., CIC Insurance, Docomo Pacific, Roil Soil, Pacific Rim Land Development, Paradise Dental Spa, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., Atkins Kroll Saipan, Matson

Inc., D&Q International Distributors, Naked Fish, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, Muzik Production, WSTCO, MINA, Micronesian Marine, Mari-

anas Coffee, Johnny's Bar & Grill, Herman's Modern Bakery, Century Hotel, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, Joeten Motors, Inas' Kitchen, and Bank of Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Fishermen's Association president Tony Scragg, right, said 60-70 boats are expected for this weekend's 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament. He is seen here posing with some of the winners of the 17th Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby last April.

"On behalf of all the hard-working members of the SFA, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of our sponsors and even bigger thank you to all the potential participants. We do this for all the fishermen/women of the Marianas to put on the best fishing tournament for all to enjoy," said Scragg.

For more information, call Martin Dueñas at MVA at 664-3200. Application forms can still be picked up Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods in Susupe and the MVA office in Oleai.

## Wanted: NMA volunteers

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Marianas Athletics is looking for volunteers to help the track and field organization hold future events the biggest of which is the CNMI's staging of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games next year.

NMA president Ramon Tebuteb the success of the islands' track and field athletes is partly due to unselfish volunteers who toil under the hot sun for hours to make sure the organization's meets are conducted properly.

"As you know, the CNMI is hosting the Mini Games next year. Most if not all of our activities are fueled by our volunteers. Along with our stakeholders, private businesses, and public agencies, they are the pillars of NMA," he said.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong, who is also the president of the Oceania Athletics Association, said the Mini Games is a huge undertaking and with 216 athletes competing in athletics—third most

in the quadrennial event next year—it's paramount that NMA train a number of volunteers and technical officials.

"With 42 athletics disciplines/events at the NMI Pacific Mini Games 2022 our goal is to train at least 40 to 50 Level 1 technical officials and 40 volunteers.

The reason we are recruiting now is to give us time and chance to offer a pathway for online courses through Oceania Athletics Association and World Athletics.

The NMA official earlier said they continue to include masters events in their meets with the idea that some of the participants would eventually be persuaded to make up their new pool of volunteers.

To become an NMA volunteer, copy and paste on your browser this link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdu9nfWVxm310Ij2GiVwJAPNqT3rflUyG81Dpn1sgFV8xL-g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&fbclid=IwAR0mnUVLj9nCPwmDOS30DS6Af9E1NYC3jqXNWxu2pCwHxkKYcsq-W-bxQs>.



MARK RABAGO

With the 2022 Pacific Mini Games just around the corner, the Northern Marianas Athletics is looking for volunteers to help the track and field organization.

## TSL Foundation donates prizes for SFA tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Fishermen's Association officials receive a donation from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, represented here by executive director Merlie Tolentino, fifth left, and assistant manager Raymond Zapanta, third left, for the 37th Saipan International Fishing Tournament during the turnover ceremony last month in Garapan.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has donated \$2,250 to the Saipan Fishermen's Association for prizes for the wahoo category in this weekend's 37th Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

SFA president Tony Scragg received the donation in a brief turnover ceremony last June 24 at the TSLF Foundation office in Garapan and was joined in the presentation by other SFA officials.

"We would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings for their generosity. We're on our 37th year and SFA is able to continue this competition despite the COVID-19 pandemic because of committed sponsors like the TSL Foundation and TanHoldings. They've been with us for many years and we hope to continue the partnership," Scragg said.

The TSL Foundation is one of the four category sponsors

in the July 10 and 11 event. Besides the mahi competition, the more than 60 entries from Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and Guam will be battling for bragging rights and prizes in the yellow fin, mahi, and skip jack categories. Boat captains and anglers will also vie for the grand prize (heaviest single catch marlin). *K-Fisher* won the grand prize last year with its 290-lb marlin, while *Reyisa* prevailed in the wahoo category with its 49.8-lb catch. *MV Tivina* and *Santa Soledad*, meanwhile, topped the mahi (11.7 lbs) and skip-jack (11.5 lbs) divisions, respectively.

TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino wishes all the participants in the tournament good luck and a safe sail in their bid to reel in a prized catch this weekend.

### MINA marine debris contest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tasi Watch Rangers join Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, front row, second left, for a group photo after receiving a donation yesterday for the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's marine debris contest.

Meanwhile, the TSL Foundation has also partnered with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance for MINA's marine debris contest in this weekend's fishing tournament.

The TSL Foundation donated \$1,500 to MINA for the raffle prizes for the contest, which encourages fishing

tournament participants to bring in any piece of marine debris on their way out of the water. MINA's Tasi Watch Rangers will also conduct outreach and education activities on how to protect our waters and marine life at the Smiling Cove Marina this weekend. (PR)



Ohtani's 32nd home  
run helps Angels  
beat Red Sox, 5-4

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

60-70 boats expected  
for international  
fishing derby

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Easy wins for Paire, Kanoa-1



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A Kanoa Football Club-1 player chases the ball during their game against Shirley's Football Club in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

**K**anoa Football Club-1 and Paire Football Club coasted past their respective opponents in the girls U15 division games in the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire topped Kanoa FC-2, 8-3, while Kanoa-1 shut down Shirley's FC. TanHoldings FC completed the winner's roster in Week 2 of the competition after downing Southern United FC, 4-2.

Hope McQuay drilled a hat-trick to power Kanoa to the lopsided victory. Isabel Manabat

chipped in two goals, while Kaleen Lee-marvin added one.

Juztidy Mizutani also delivered three goals in Paire's easy win over Kanoa-2. She made all three goals in the first half to hand Paire a 5-1 lead at half-time. Teneasha Diaz, Alana

Hayes, Mary Among, Anna Dalusung, and Miranda Borja also scored for Paire, while Kanoa-2's three goals were all courtesy of Valerie Estella.

In the TanHoldings-Southern United tiff, four different players hit the board for the winning team. Rizza Relucio,



siblings Aubrey and Audrey Castro, and Kaithlyn Chavez made one goal apiece for TanHoldings, while Southern United's pair came from Pia

Ngewakl and Megan Elayda.

**BOYS U15 DIVISION**  
**TanHoldings 6, Paire 0**  
TanHoldings also tri-

umphed in the boys U15 division after dominating Paire.

See EASY on Page 22

## McDonald's to host inaugural golf tourney

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan is hosting a golf tournament this December to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit that provides a home-away-from-home for seriously ill children and their families.

The Inaugural Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament is set for Dec. 11, 2021 at the Laolo Bay Golf & Resort west course. This early, tournament director Vicente "Ben" Babauta said they expect the full field of 144 slots to fill up quickly. The one-day, medal play



tournament will have seven total flights—Championship (0-5 handicap), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17 and above), Ladies, Seniors (55-64 years old), and Super Seniors (65 and above).

See MCDONALD'S on Page 22



MARK RABAGO

From left, Inaugural Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament director Vicente "Ben" Babauta, McDonald's Human Resource manager Ana Olaes, tournament committee member Das Krishnan, McDonald's executive assistant to the president Natalie Mable A. Glenn, and tournament committee member James Nelson. Above on video call are, from left, McDonald's of Guam & Saipan Marketing director Divina Evaristo, McDonald's president and CEO Joe C. Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia E. Ayuyu, and McDonald's vice president Joe Ayuyu Jr.

## \$10K hole-in-one at HANMI Charity Golf tourney

There's now \$10,000 up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize at the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan.

"The response from our sponsors has been very encouraging, and we're pleased to offer \$10,000 as a hole-in-one prize at this year's tournament," said tournament chair Glenn Policare. "The HANMI golf tournament has awarded a couple hole-in-one winners in the past, and it would be incredible to award another this year. We encourage all golfers to sign up by the early bird deadline at the end of this month."

The early bird registration deadline is July 30, 2021, at 4pm and is \$120, including green fee and the awards luncheon at Coral Ocean Resort immediately following the tournament. The fee increases to \$140 after the early bird

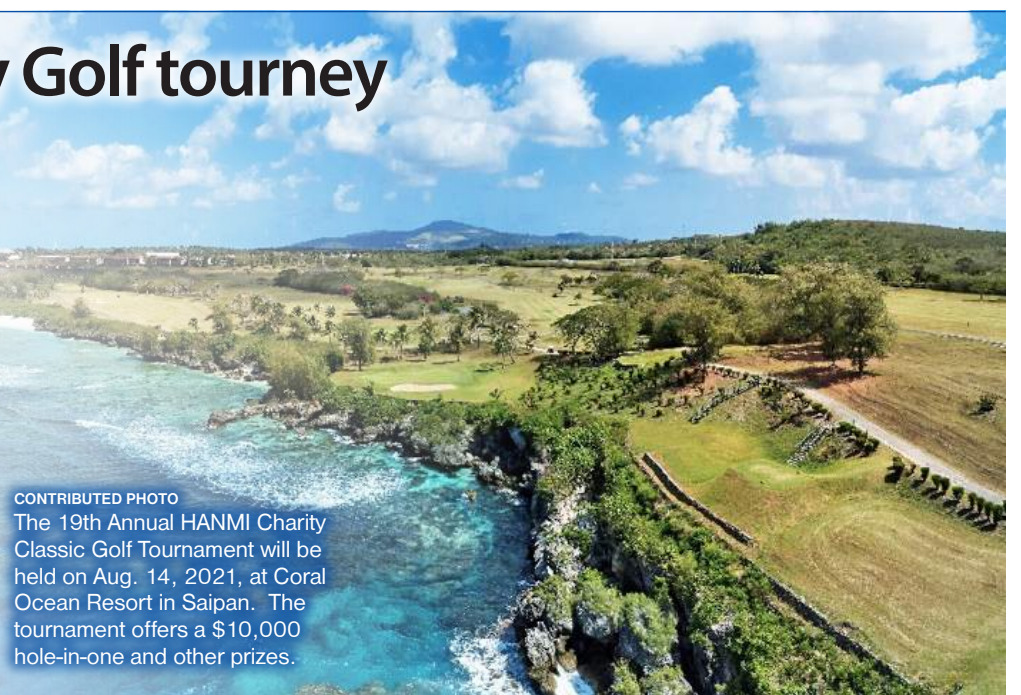


deadline on Friday, July 30, 2021, at 4pm. The tournament will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Registration forms are available at [www.saipanhottels.org](http://www.saipanhottels.org) and [www.facebook.com/HANMI670](http://www.facebook.com/HANMI670).

For an additional \$30 players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. Showtime is 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am.

A portion of the tournament proceeds will support the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 in June 2022, a regional sporting event expected to attract close to 2,000 athletes and officials to Saipan.

To sponsor the tournament or for more information, contact tournament chair Glenn Policare at [glenn\\_policare@kanoaresort.com](mailto:glenn_policare@kanoaresort.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/HANMI670](http://www.facebook.com/HANMI670). (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. The tournament offers a \$10,000 hole-in-one and other prizes.